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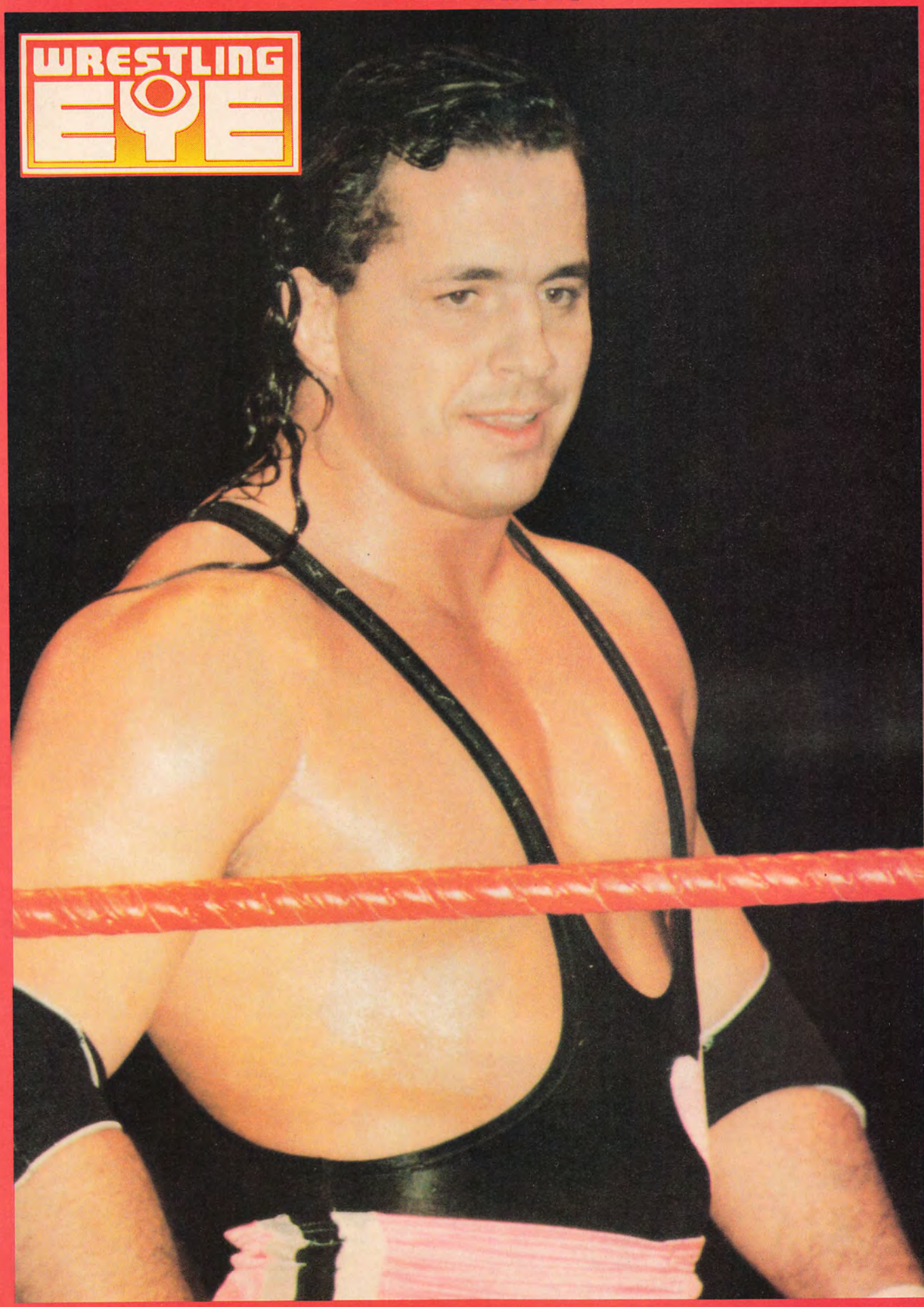
EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET AND MISS LINDA

BRET HART



DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE AND THE DIAMOND DOLLS

From the Editor's Desk....

THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE GENUINE

Okay, what does that mean Hubie? Simple. Take the W.W.F.'s recent WRESTLEMANIA for example. Sure, to the average person it was an exciting, successful and satisfying event. Although, on the other hand, if you're a knowledgeable 'pure' wrestling fanatic chances are on the same day you watched the N.W.A.'s CAJUN CLASH, and never thought twice about WRESTLEMANIA. Of course the ''wrestling'', was better at the CAJUN CLASH to us 'purists,' but everyone else in the civilized world watched WRESTLEMANIA!! Maybe there should be a correspondence course for wrestling fans. Sad isn't it!... Wake up!!!!

Obnoxiously yours,

Hubie Marx

Hubie Marx
Editor, Wrestling Eye Magazine

For more than 14 years, it seemed that Rowdy Roddy Piper was always at the center of a professional wrestling controversy. The outspoken young man who used to enter the ring carrying bagpipes and wearing a kilt was always in the limelight, always in the middle of things, and always ready with an opinion on any subject when asked (and even when not asked).

Piper's skills inside the squared circle were matched only by his ability to carry on a conversation (or argument) with anyone at anytime. The Rowdy One had it all. However, just as he was seemingly at the peak of his career, he walked away from the sport. Following his victory over Adrian Adonis in WrestleMania III, Piper announced he was retiring from wrestling to pursue a career on the silver screen. Now, over two years later, the rumors run rampant that Roddy will return to active competition. Those who believed that he could not stay away have been quieted. If Piper ever plans to make a comeback, now would appear to be the right time.

This latest chapter in Piper's colorful mat career began when he agreed to return to the WWF during WM V, hosting his familiar "Piper's Pit" talk show segment. His guests included the outspoken Morton Downey, Jr., and Piper's successor on WWF TV shows, Brother Love. "When the chance to host Piper's Pit again was offered, it was too much to pass up," said Piper. "The opportunity to confront a couple of loudmouths like Brother Love and Morton Downey really appealed to me. I couldn't say no." Needless to say, Rowdy Roddy was more than a match for his two guests. "Downey is all blow and no go, and this Brother Love, well, he's the closest thing to human garbage you can find," he commented.

RODDY PIPER
ON THE COMEBACK TRAIL
by Tom Clutters

While speculation about his future continued, Piper was more interested in talking about his movie career. The film, called "They Live," was released in late October, and while it wasn't exactly a rousing success at the box office, it was a work to be admired. Piper played the role of John Nada, a homeless but hard-working man who is forced to battle a collection of bad-guy monsters who were out to get him. "The movie was science fiction, but we also tried to point out some of the hardships which the homeless suffer every day. It's something which a lot of people don't know about, and we tried to draw some attention to it." The film, directed by John Carpenter, was probably the first of a series of films for the Rowdy One, although he refuses to speculate. "There are a lot of things on the table for me right now," he says. "I'm not at liberty to discuss anything right now, but I can stay just as busy as I want."

Since his retirement, a lot has happened to the wrestling world. One notable event was the death Adonis, with whom Piper had conducted a savage feud. "Adrian Adonis was a man I didn't particularly like, but he had the respect of his peers. He was a tough opponent, and it's a shame his life had

Rico was also noted by Piper. "I never had a lot of contact with Brody, but he was another toughie. Few men in this business were feared quite like he was. For someone like that to die at the hands of another wrestler is sad. Very sad."

Although he has been busy with his acting duties, Piper has managed to keep up on mat happenings. While admitting that he can't sit down and watch a show on television, he still knows most of what is going on. "Let's face it. Wrestling has always been my first love, so it was impossible for me to break away completely. I've kept up, but watching it on TV is just about impossible. It really gets me ıd up. I've stayed abreast of ə federations, including the

This bagpipe playing boy certainly made good.

WWF especially, and let me tell you something. The more I watch Brother Love's segments, the more I realize that 'Piper's Pit' was just about the greatest thing going. This guy has no knowledge of wrestling, but he tries to talk like an expert. Frankly, Brother Love stinks!"

Make no mistake about it, Roddy Piper has never been an angel. Fans will long remember his brashness and sometimes, his cruelty. "Hey, I never claimed to be no choirboy," he admits. "I've done a lot of nasty things, brother. Most fans still bring up the time when I conked Jimmy Snuka with a coconut on national television, and they always talk about the days when I was a color commentator with Gordon Solie. No question about it, I've been a bad boy sometimes." While never actually courting the cheers of the fans, he does admit to having enjoyed the adoration. "To be honest, I never paid much attention to the crowd when I was in the ring. Sure, I knew they were there, but I had a job to do, and I didn't let anything get in the way. I do remember their support when I went against Greg Valentine a few years ago, and they cheered for me against Adonis, and it did help."

There is certainly no question that a comeback by Roddy Piper would be big news in the wrestling world. Piper, who has held the Mid-Atlantic and United States championships among others, was always regarded as a competitor of world championship caliber, but never attained the lofty heights. "There were times when I thought about seriously trying for a world title," he admitted. "But I think overall, my record compares with just about anyone else's." With the world titles in both the WWF and the NWA in chaos these days, a man like Piper might just be able to finally reach the top of the mountain. "If I really wanted to give it a shot, I believe in my heart I could take one of the world belts," said the Rowdy One. "I have met and defeated all the best at one time or another, and there's no reason I couldn't do it again."

It would appear that Piper has a choice in what he does in the future, but he is also adamant about not revealing his plans. The talk has increased concerning a ring comeback, but the lure of the giant screen remains. He has worked extremely hard to improve himself as an actor, just as he did when he wrestled. "There's no substitute for hard work. I slaved and sweated and bled to become the best wrestler I could, and I've spent a hell of a lot of time to learn the movie business. In a lot of ways, the work has been harder, but just like wrestling, the rewards are great. It took me quite a while to get used to the Hollywood way of life, but I adjusted. That's a completely different world out there, nothing like wrestling. There's still a lot of places where I don't feel comfortable."

The Piper's Pit spots are truly classic.

At the present time, Roddy Piper won't tell what his plans are. Wrestling fans hope he will return to the mat scene, if not as a competitor, then at least as a commentator. "Like I said before, I can't discuss the future right now," he says. "But rest assured that professional wrestling will always be a part of me. We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

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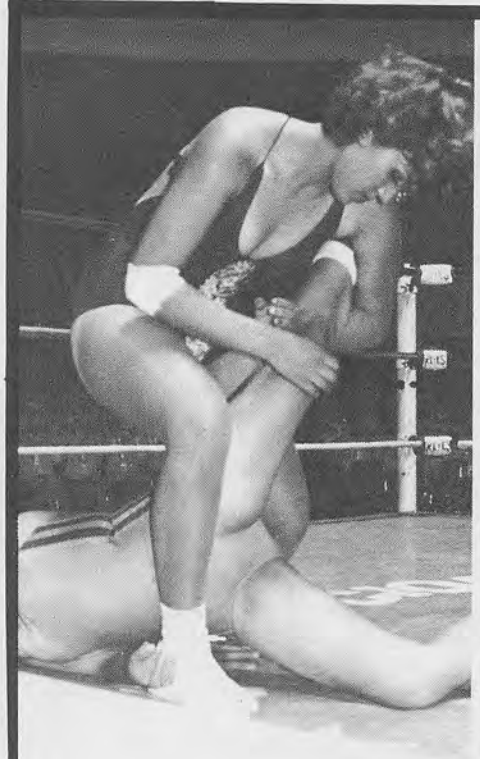
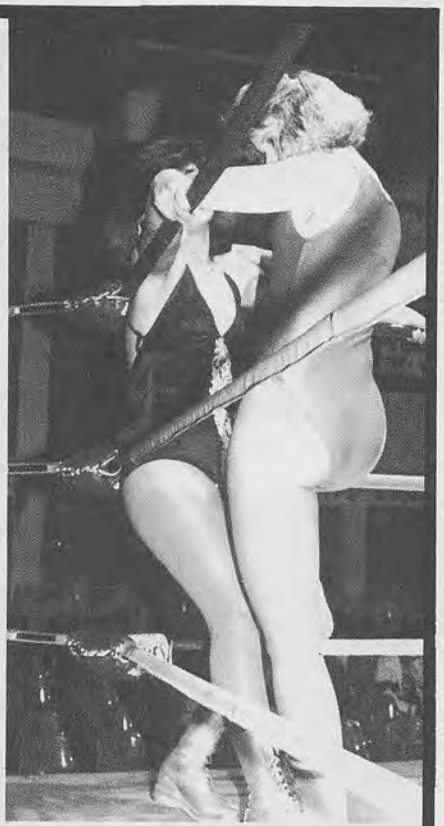
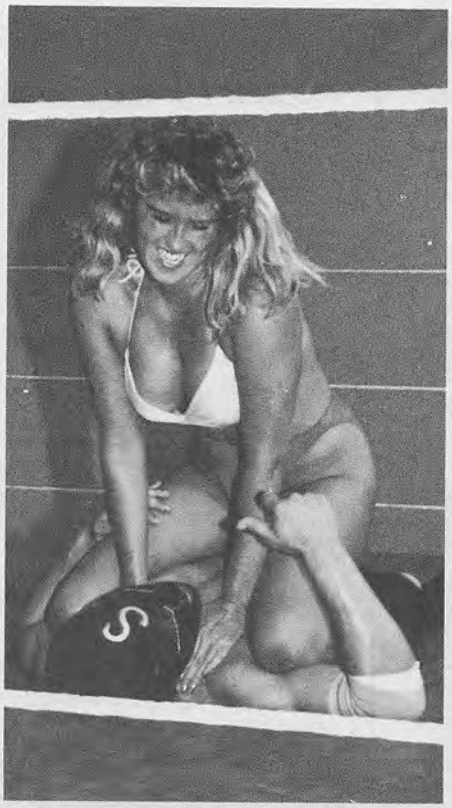
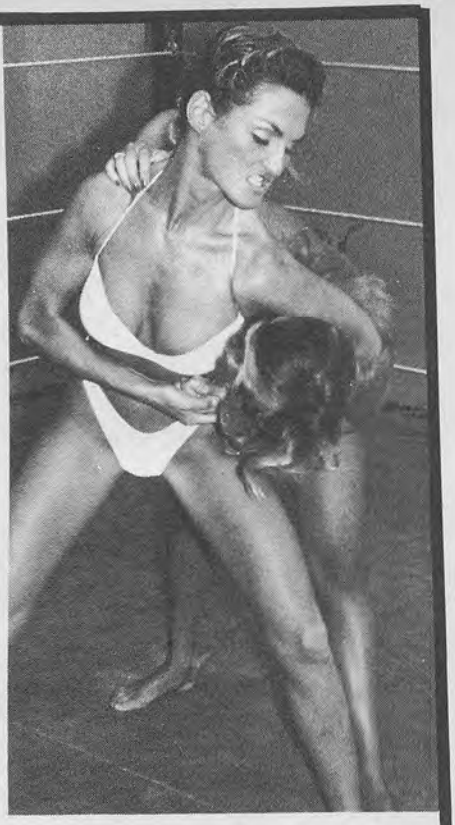




Pro Lady's



Male vs. Female



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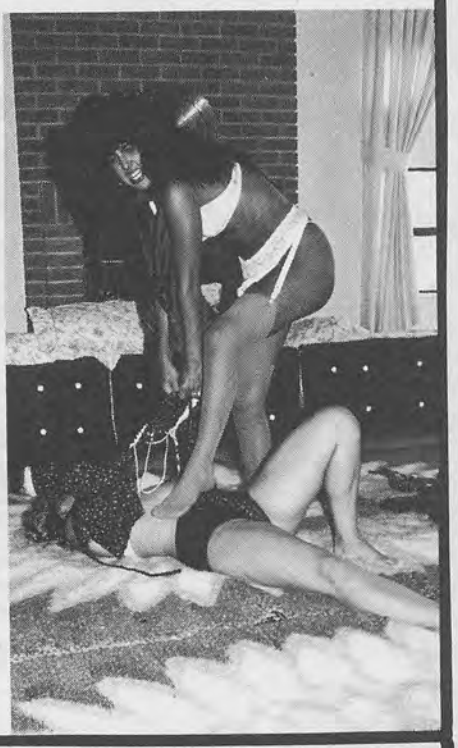

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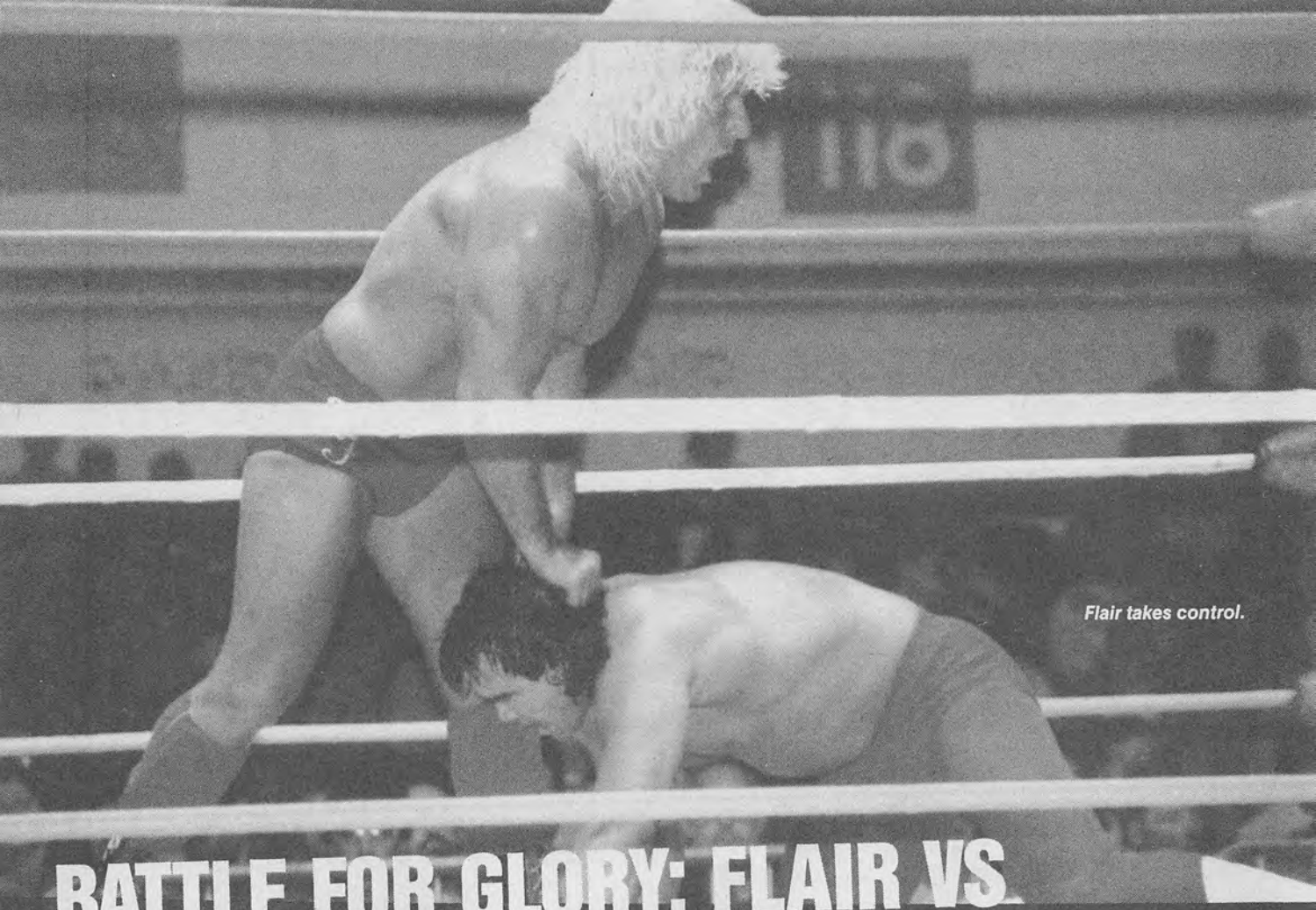
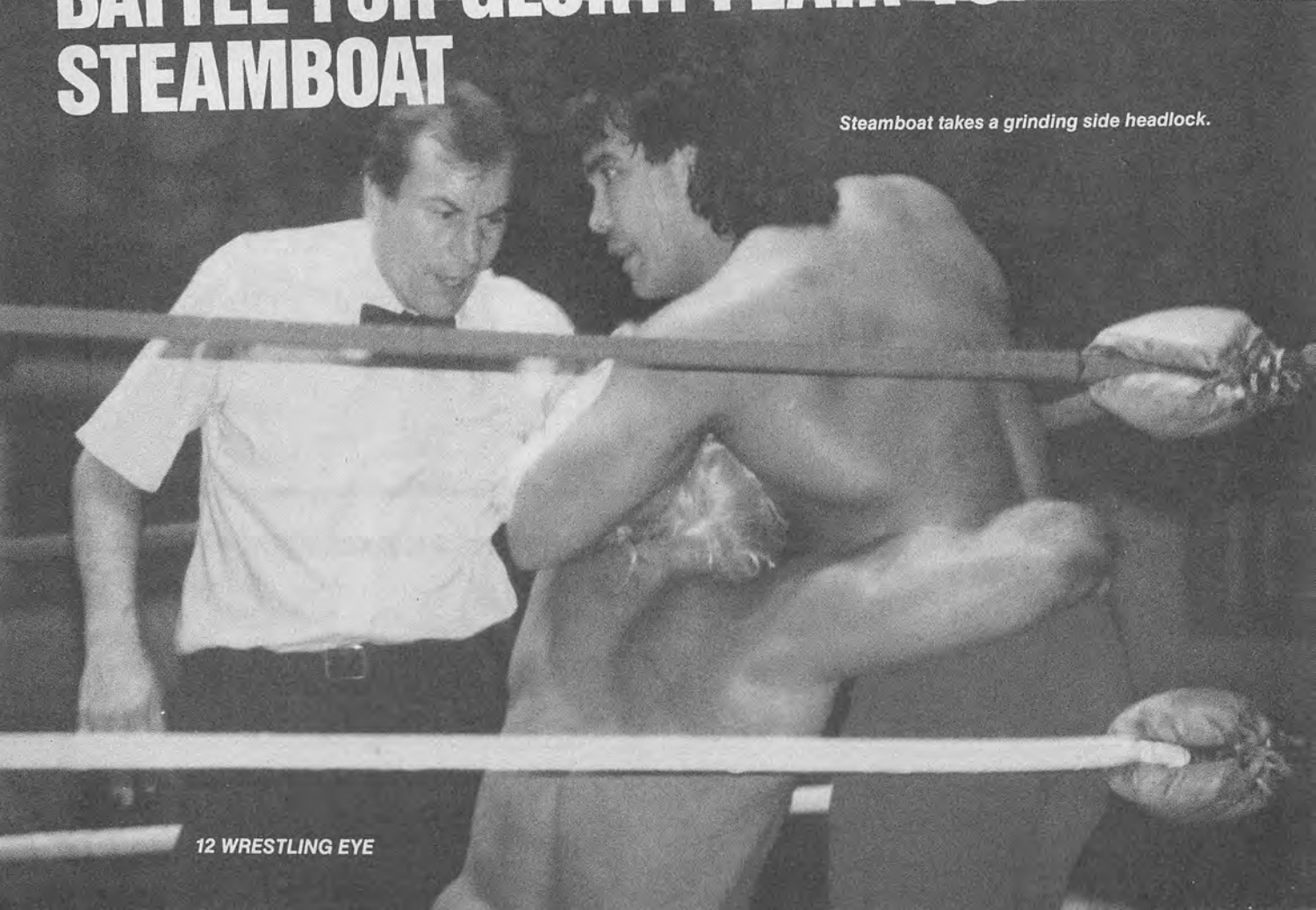
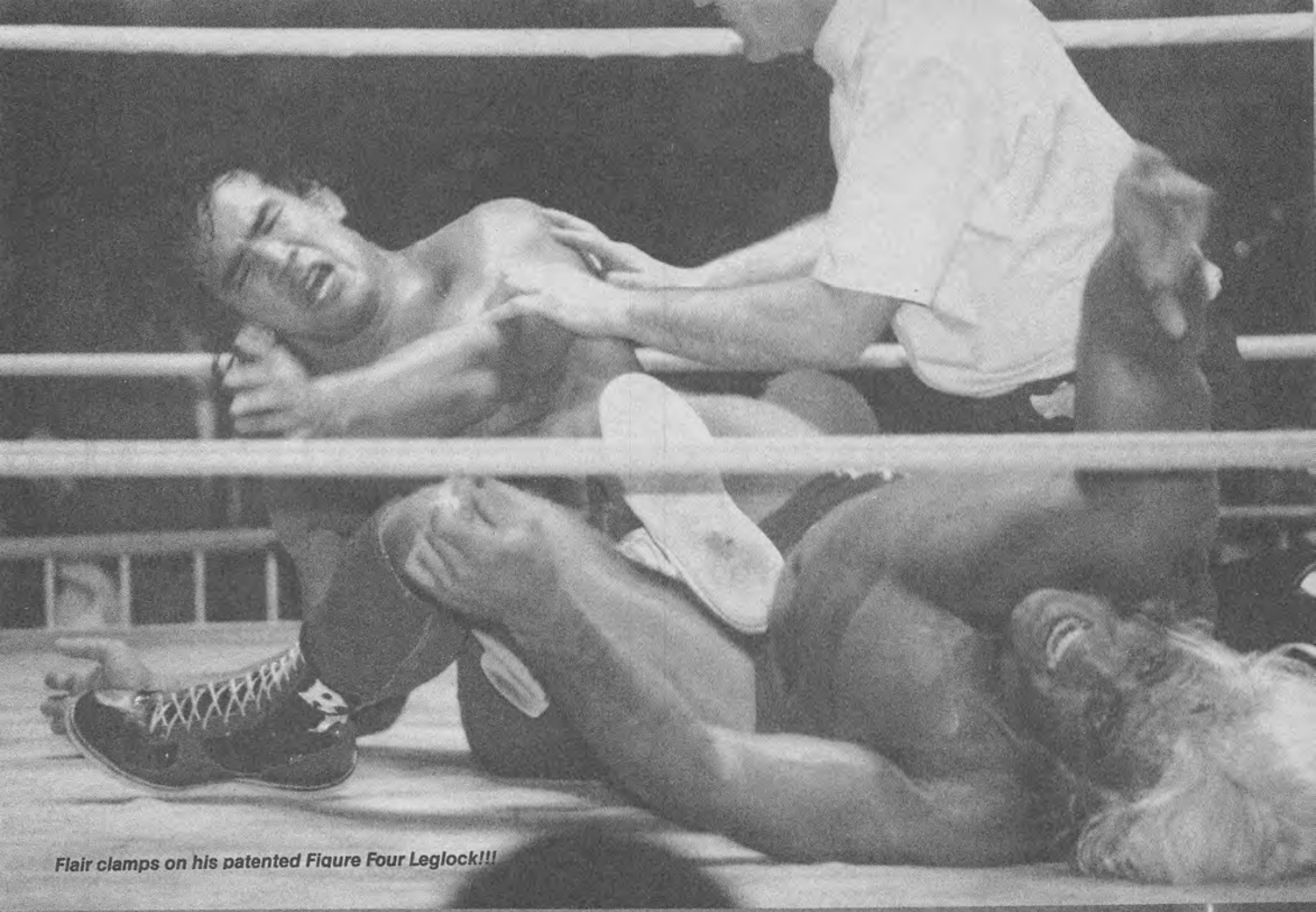


Flair takes control.

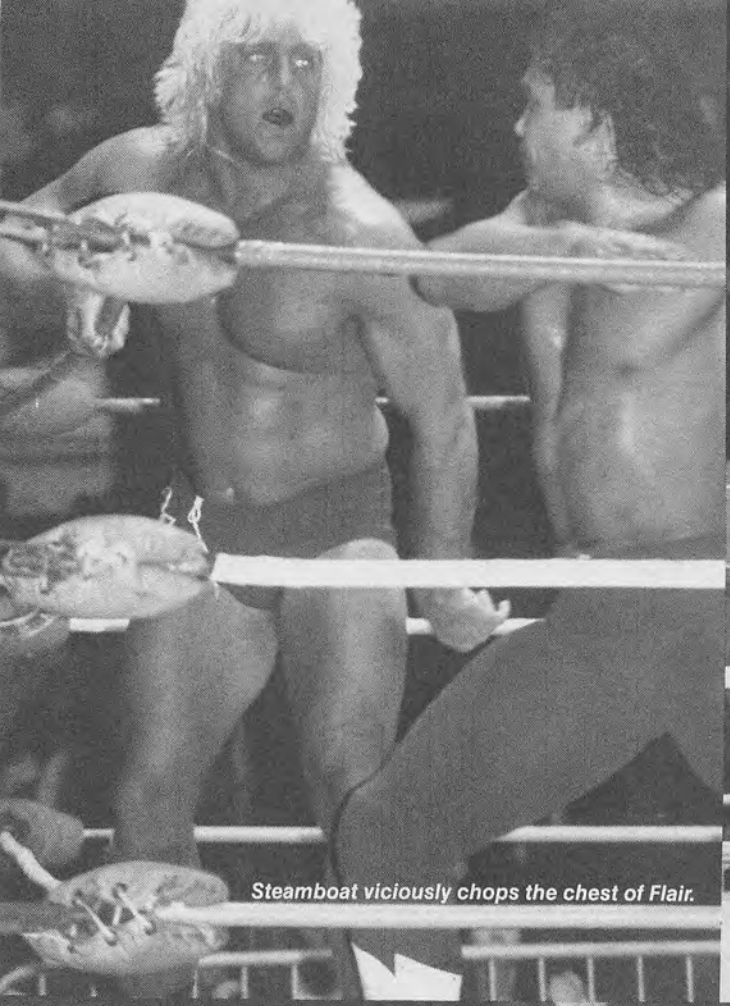


Steamboat takes a grinding side headlock.



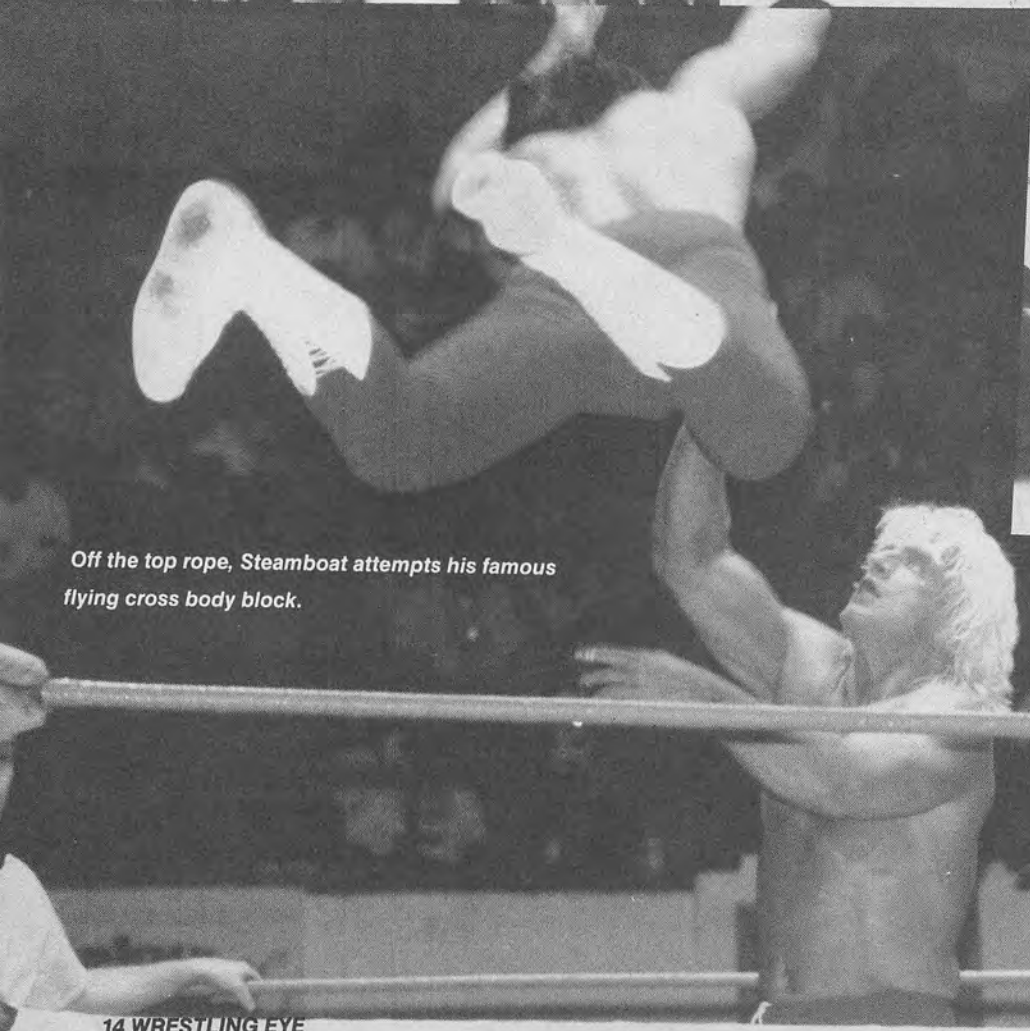
Flair clamps on his patented Figure Four Leglock!!!

The champ, Ricky Steamboat, returns the favor.



Steamboat viciously chops the chest of Flair.

'Slick Ric' soars through the air!!!



Off the top rope, Steamboat attempts his famous flying cross body block.

Flair comes out in the end !!!

Delta Tiger Lillies

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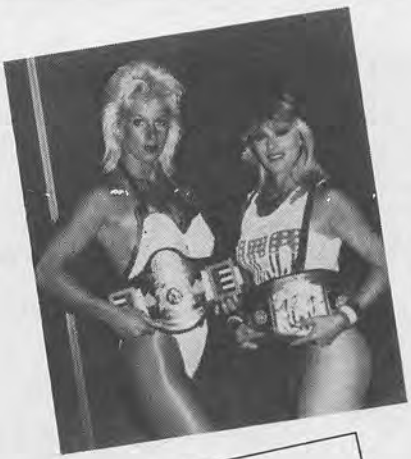

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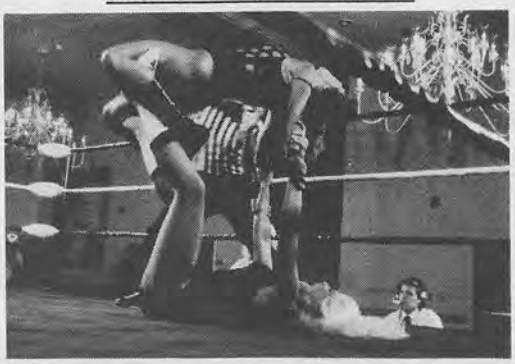

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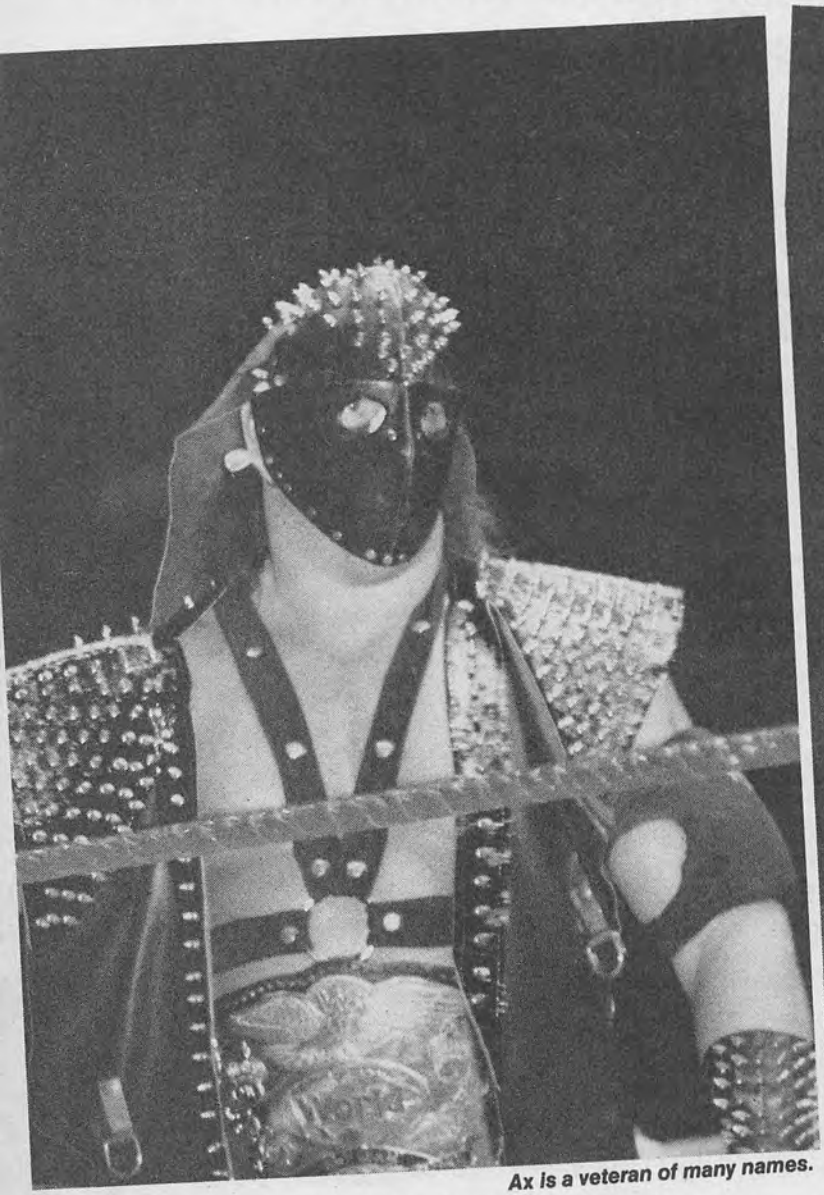
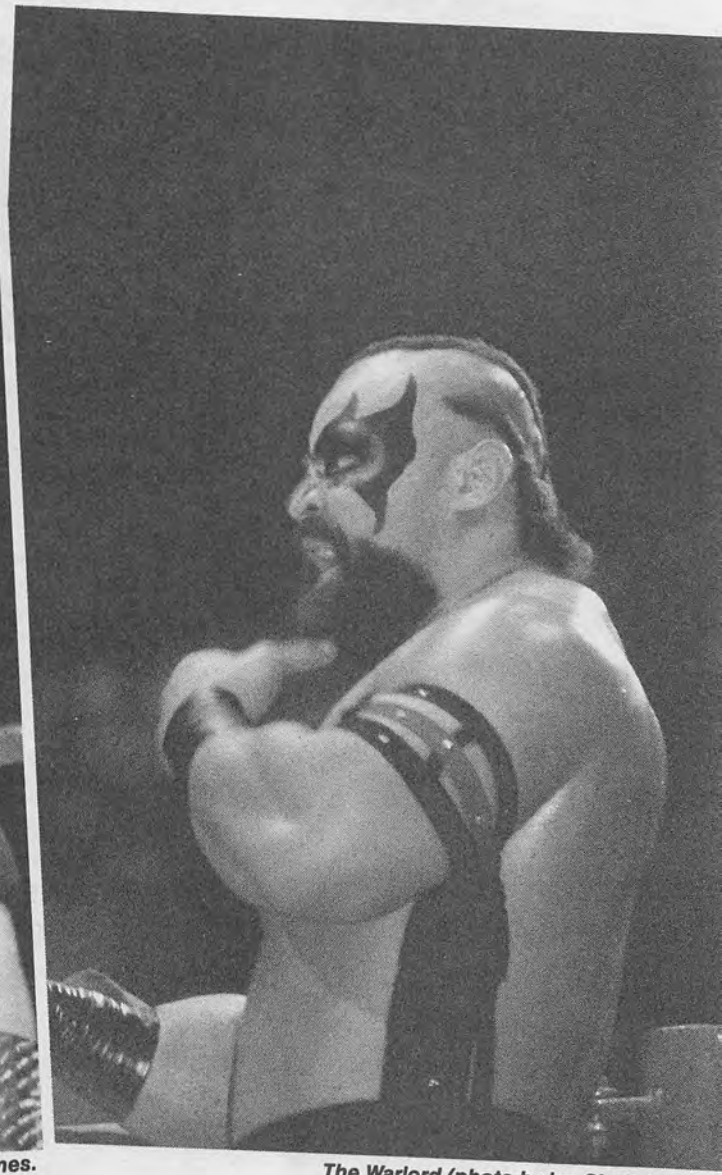


Ax is a veteran of many names.



The Warlord (photo by Ian Shultz)

The monstrous guys, sporting greasepaint and weird haircuts, were led to the ring by longtime babyface hero, Tito Santana. The arena crowd stood and cheered as if they were witnessing the second coming of Hulkamania.

At ringside, a knowledgable fan nudged his friend. "Hey Pinky, I'm tellin' you those guys are really the Road Warriors. The WWF just can't use their real names. I think the NWA copyrighted the name or something."

"Nah, Markie," said Pinky. "That's those other guys. They were in the NWA too. Powers of Rain or sumthin' like that."

The other monstrous guys, sporting greasepaint but without weird haircuts, were led to the ring

by the dastardly and decidedly devious Mr. Fuji. The crowd, of course, booed out of habit. Demolition was disliked, but were more a curiosity than a team truly despised.

The bell rang and one of the strangest feuds in wrestling history began. The Powers of Pain, notorious bad guys, were allegedly recruited by Tito Santana to seek vengeance on Demolition for the injury they inflicted on Santana's Strike Force partner, Rick Martel, at Wrestlemania IV. For a time, some fans actually mistook the Powers for the legendary Road Warriors and even after Tito Santana was replaced as "manager" by a miscast Baron Von Raschke, looking in his hooded black monk's robe like a skinny, bald Kevin Sullivan, the fans continued to cheer the Powers, though with decreasing fervor with each appearance.

Time marched onward.

Those two dedicated fans, Pinky and Markie, were at the WWF November spectacular, the Survivor Series, watching the Battle of the Tag Teams.

"I told ya, Pinky, that ain't the Road Warriors. And where's that weird guy in the black hood?"

"Markie, you said it was the Road Warriors, I told you..."

"Shuddup, and look. This is unbelievable! Mr. Fuji just pulled down the rope on Smash. Demolition's been eliminated by their own manager!"

And so began a strange and terrible tale of subterfuge and redemption. Not since "The Saga of the Evil Twin Referee" has there been a more sardonic story. Demolition pummelled Fuji, who kept screaming "I'm the boss," revealing the reason for his betrayal. Apparently, Demolition had stopped listening to advice from their Oriental mentor. The tale was completed when the Powers came to Fuji's aid and helped dust debris off his rumpled suit.

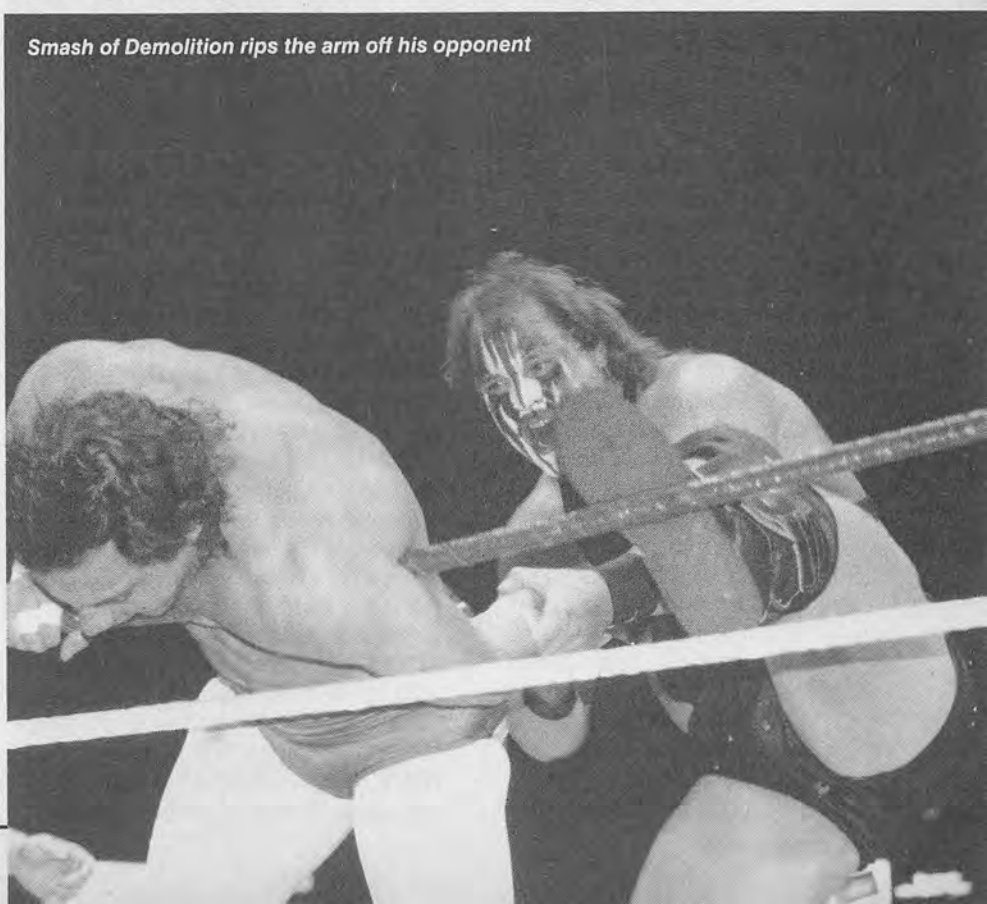
"Hey, Pinky, who we supposed to cheer for here? Is Fuji becoming a good guy?"

"Nah, I don't think so, Markie. I think the Powers of Pain are turning bad."

"Does that make Demolition good guys?"

"I'm not sure, Markie."

Neither was anyone else. Demolition didn't look like good guys, but then again, the Powers didn't either. If Mr. Fuji had turned good, would he now be giving away free sushi at ringside to attract yuppie fans? The possibilities were if not staggering, at least weird and there were many questions that demanded serious answers.



Smash of Demolition rips the arm off his opponent

The Barbarian of the P.O.P.

In the weeks that followed, the answers came, but were somewhat disappointing. Somewhere deep within the dark labyrinth of WWF headquarters was a key WWF strategist who thought that the feud between the two greasepainted duos would be electrified if identities were switched. The Demo's would be the good guys now and the Powers...well, they were always better bad guys anyway and they were lousy on interviews as heroes. So, the rarest of wrestling's many angles occurred, the diabolical double turn.

But what about the poor fans like Pinky and Markie? Was anybody going to tell them what was happening? Would Pinky and Markie accept the explanations given on frantic WWF interview segments? Which team would be judged worthy of support? When Mr. Fuji threw ceremonial salt at Demolition that meant the Powers were the villains, didn't it? Perhaps it is necessary to examine the players in this most rare drama to determine just which team should get the boos.

Little need be said about Mr. Fuji. He continues to be the same dastardly cur he always was. There is at least some solace there. Some things will always be the same. Like war and pestilence.

Demolition is an interesting pairing. Smash is the younger of the two greasepainted wildmen. He began his career as Barry Darsow, a clean cut all-American boy. Then his values changed and he became the deadly Crusher Darsow. Things got worse. He decided he was really a Communist, so he became Crusher Kruschev and allied himself with Ivan Koloff in the NWA. It is not clear if his political affiliation changed when he joined the WWF and became Smash.

Ax is a true veteran and has been a heel most of his wrestling life. Bill Eadie worked under a hood as the Masked Superstar for many years in promotions all over the world. When Machine-mania swept through the WWF a couple of years ago, he became the Super Machine. Remember him and the other Machines who were allegedly Japan's finest wrestling exports? He was the Machine who stood next to Andre the Giant Machine and when asked to say something in Japanese, said "Kawasaki, Toyota, Yamaha!"

The Powers of Pain have both had varied careers in the NWA. The Barbarian competed there, and in other promotions, as Konga the Barbarian before Paul Jones paired him with the Warlord as the team that would if not destroy the Road Warriors, certainly out-paint them.

The Warlord began life as Terry Szopinski. Sometime around his twenty second birthday, he was recruited by then manager/valet Baby Doll to be her first NWA hero charge. At the time, she was allied with Dusty Rhodes and in mortal combat with Jim Cornette and his first Midnight Express. Terry was there to deal with Cornette's bodyguard, the equally large Big Bubba Rogers. When Baby Doll turned on Dusty and then journeyed to the Central States region, the Warlord followed her and, in time, became a headline heel.

Now that these warpainted enemies' identities are somewhat more defined, it is easier to decide just who should get the boos. Isn't it? Well, perhaps there are more questions to be answered. Can't cheer for Demolition because they seriously injured Rick Martel. Well, now that Martel has become a bad guy, didn't he just get what he deserved before he deserved to get it. Can't boo the Powers because, after all, they came to good ole Tito's aid. Perhaps, but Tito long ago gave up on them and turned them over to that cloaked character. And that raises a more important question than who are really the heroes in this scurrilous saga, this battle of the greasepaint. What ever happened to that cloaked character anyway?

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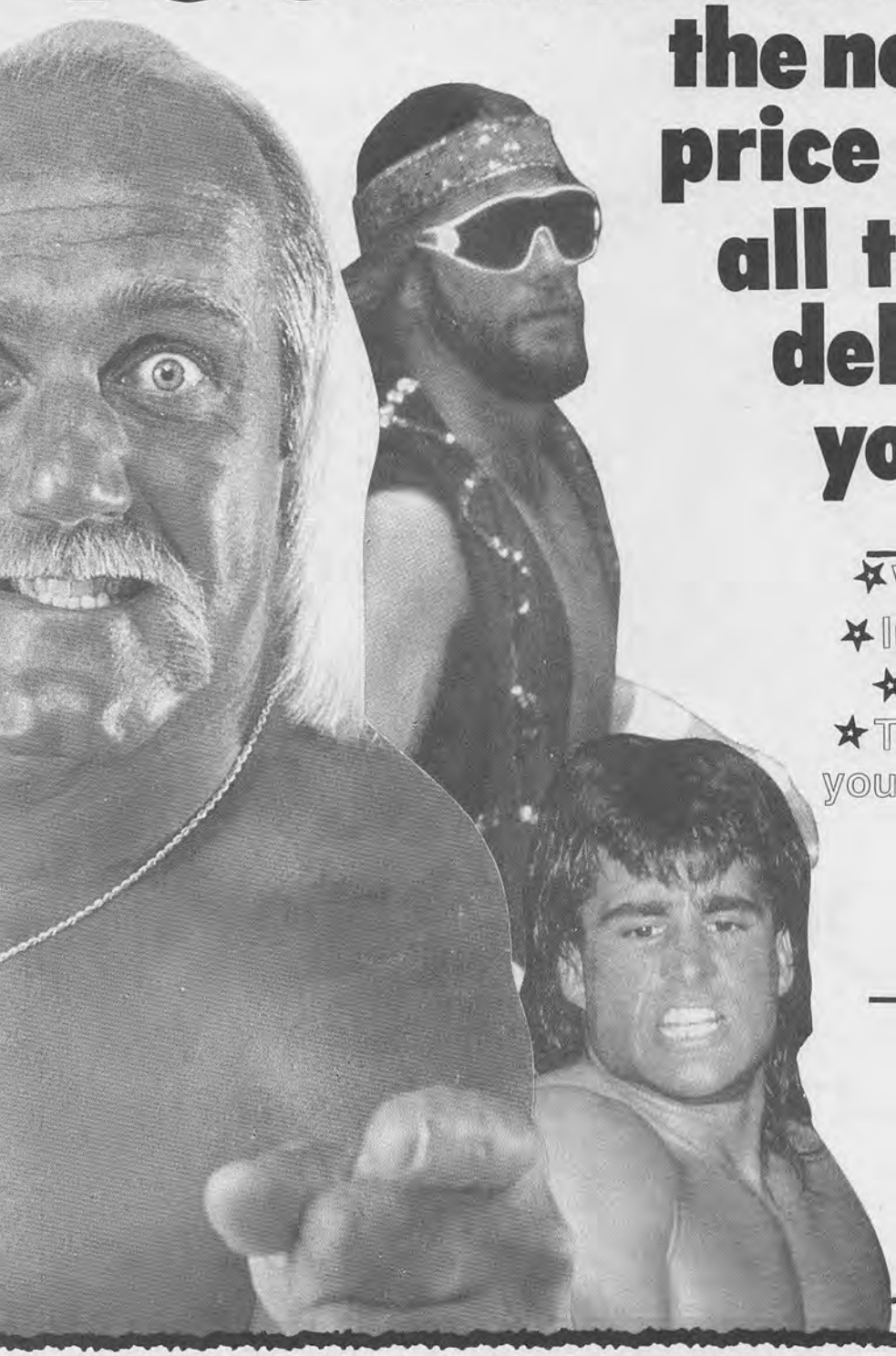

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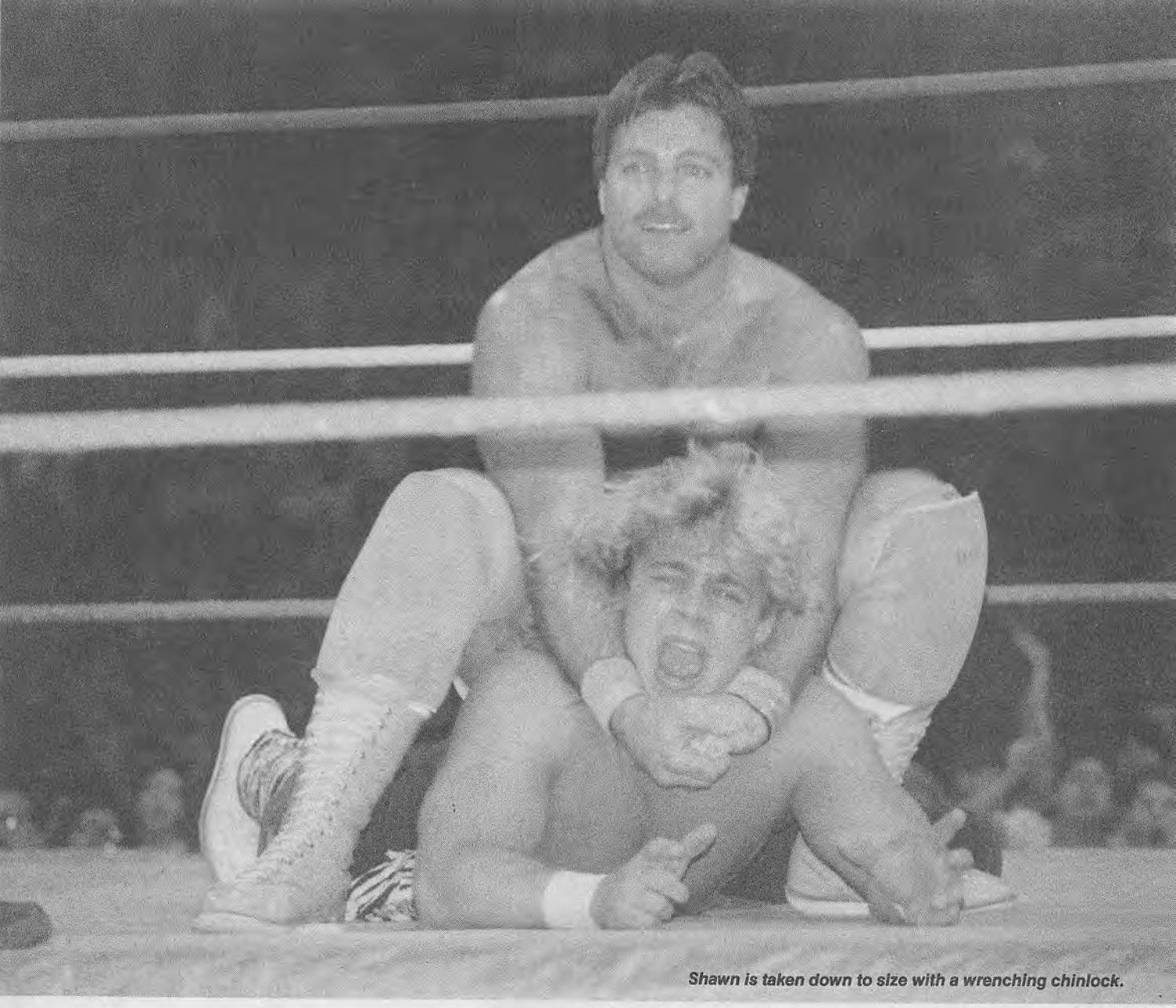


Shawn is taken down to size with a wrenching chinlock.

THE ROCKERS AND ROUGEAUS CAN'T BEAT THE SYSTEM

by Don Laible

Sooner or later, the conspiracy will be uncovered and two of the World Wrestling Federation's most celebrated tag teams will be bestowed the proper respect and "push" by promoters. That's the growing sentiment brewing among fans throughout North America. What do they have to do in order to get a fair shake? Defeat Hulk Hogan and Big John Studd one-on-one? They are tag team specialists and have accomplished all that is possible without having the tag championship belts strapped around their waists. Whatever way you view the situation, it appears The Rockers: Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty, and The Rougeau Brothers: Raymond and Jacques just can't seem to beat the system, or at least have it work in their favor.

Roadblocks, detours and getting caught up in a numbers game, have held the two units from progressing up the tag rankings to put them in line for the title. Contenders are what they are officially referred to as by the WWF. However, their performances clearly put them in a championship category. Something's not kosher as to

why they seem to be held back. What gives?

Both teams come from opposite parts of North America. Their travels that eventually landed them roster positions within the WWF were long and both mentally and physically punishing. You won't hear any complaints from The Rockers or The Rougeaus about what adversities they had to overcome to hit the big-time. This is not to insinuate that all the previous promotions that they have appeared for were the minor leagues. Far from it. Unfortunately, there's currently only two wrestling groups, the WWF and National Wrestling Alliance where a sizeable income can be earned in the sport today. In fact, some of the promotions in which they began with are no longer in operation today.

Shawn Michaels has been around wrestling rings for quite a while.

Although both teams have different approaches to their opponents, the end results have been the same. Victory after victory has been racked up and yet no invitation for a title match. The would-be most important match of their careers hasn't come not due to a lack of effort. They work hard on staying on top of their game by constantly developing new holds and maneuvers, many of which are acrobatic. You don't hear chants of "boring, boring" from the audiences watching them in the arenas.

The Rockers have been scraping, brawling and slapping when their opponents chose to stray from sanctioned wrestling holds, for a number of years as a unit. Since they entered the confines of the WWF a year ago, they signed open contracts inviting the "cream of the crop" tag teams to test their skills. Demolition: Ax and Smash while holding the tag championship were elusive and at times downright not willing to put their prestigious gold belts on the line against Michaels and Jannetty.

Bobby Heenan's prize pair, The Brainbusters; Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were only one of two top tandems to agree to meeting them in the "squared circle." The Powers of Pain; The Warlord and The Barbarian, managed by Mr. Fuji have been the other highly successful combination to match up with The Rockers. With Jannetty, of Columbus, Georgia, at 5'10" 220 lbs. and Michaels, a native of San Antonio, Texas at 6'0" 225 lbs., The Rockers have been at an obvious size disadvantage in battling the bullies of the WWF but by being in some cases six inches and fifty pounds lighter, their fighting spirit hasn't diminished one iota.

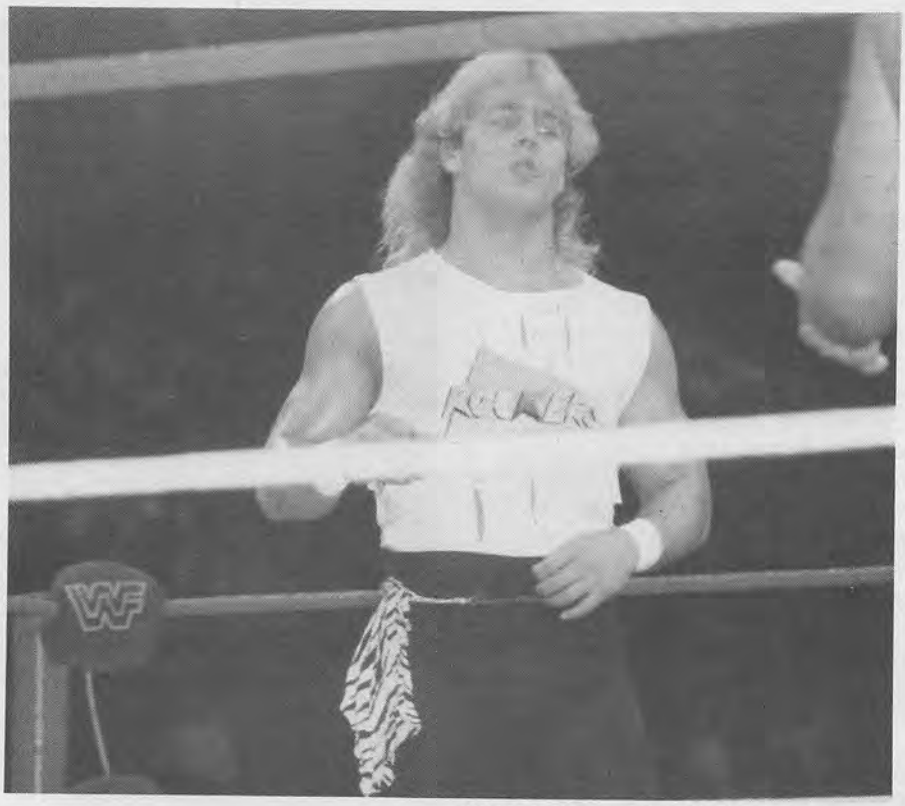
Marty Jannetty looks on.

Marty Jannetty had much to say about the future of the Rockers.

"Some of the matchmakers say Shawn and I don't look mean enough for the fans to believe we can be just as tough as any team. We've been called "pretty boys", I've heard all the cute remarks. Well brother, we dress and act our age and do what makes us feel comfortable in the ring. It's our skills and winning record that should be getting all the attention and not how long our hair is. If any wrestler, matchmaker or promoter doubts our ability to attract thousands of fans at a time to the arenas and if any person hesitates to give us what is due to us, and not put The Rockers in the main event on a program because we don't measure up to their expectations of what a tag team of the 1990's should be, let them tell it to our faces. Sooner or later, the pressure will build to a point where there

won't be any more excuses for us not to have a showdown with whomever wins the championship."

One avenue being explored by The Rockers would call for a tag encounter with another highly ranked team The Young Stallions; Paul Roma and Jim Powers. The only hitch to the four going at it in the ring is their friendship. Both teams adhere to the rule book, anticipate each other's moves smoothly and when travel arrangements permit, the four young grapplers train together and practice holds on the mat. The thinking behind this confrontation is that it would lure media representatives from all sports, not just wrestling, to cover it and the publicity would allow Shawn and Marty to be in the spotlight for once, instead of having to share it with as many as a dozen others. Stranger things have happened so don't count this match out just yet.



Michaels knows what it's like to be on top.

****

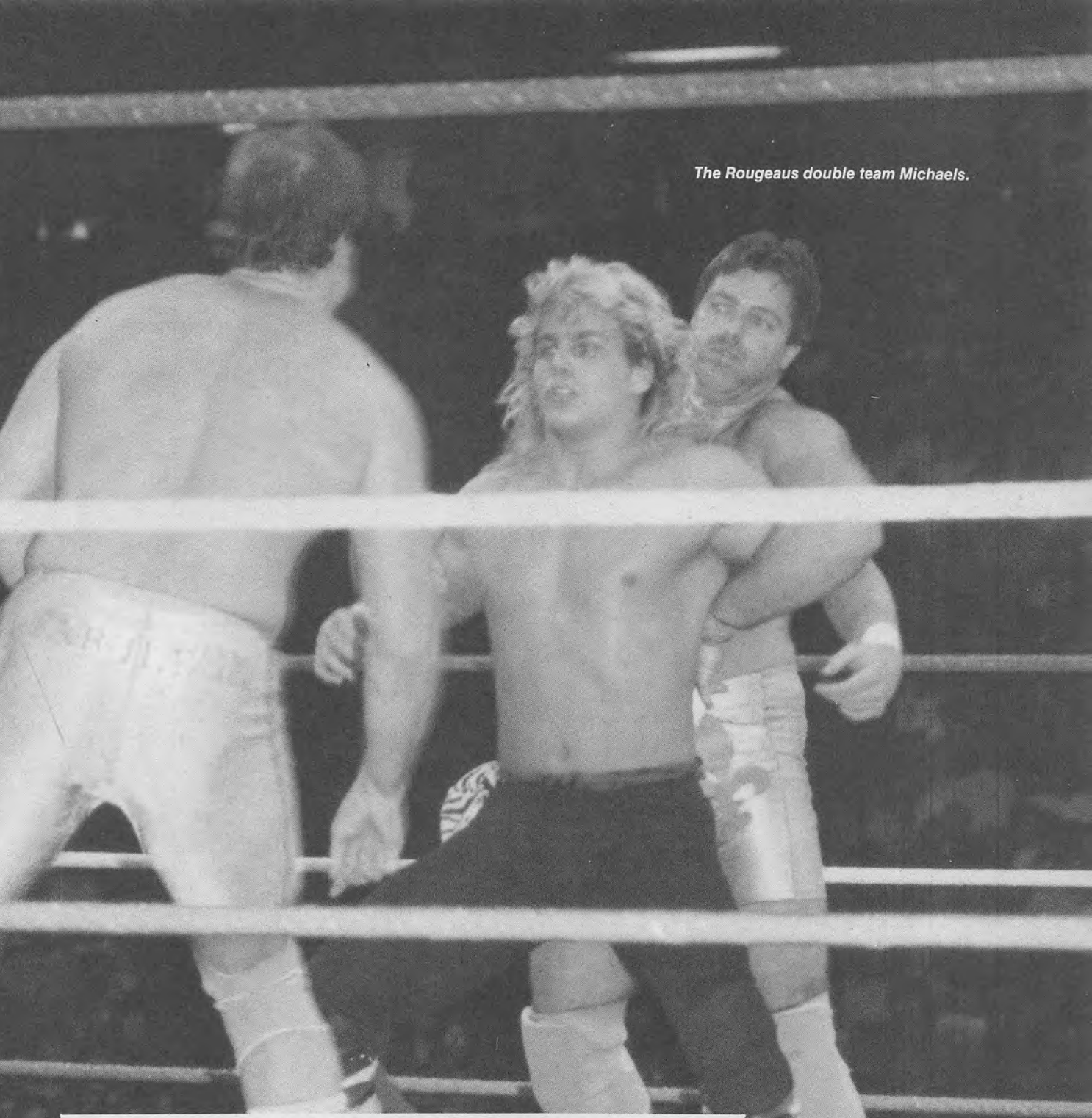
A tradition of wrestling excellence is on the side of Raymond and Jacques Rougeau. They present a solid defense for a crack at the tag team title. With Jimmy "The Mouth of the South" Hart guiding them, the brother duo have certainly been receiving fine coaching. They've gone out of their way to settle in with their fellow WWF wrestlers. To show their willingness to conform and do all in their power to be granted a title match, besides running up an impressive winning streak, they relocated from their home of Montreal, Quebec, Canada to Memphis, Tennessee. To go one step further, with Hart's wisdom, the Rougeaus cut a record professing their devotion to making all attempts at being All-American men.

The Rougeaus want gold!

Jacques Rougeau, Sr., their legendary wrestling father, and their uncle Johnny Rougeau paved the way for them by being headliners for years on the Grand Prix circuit in Quebec. Raymond and Jacques scored impressive wins in their early years as a team over duos such as The Hollywood Blondes; Jerry Brown and Dale Roberts, and Abdullah the Butcher joining forces with Gilles "The Fish" Poisson.

"I can't explain why the Rougeaus aren't wearing the tag belts as we speak. They possess everything and more you look for in a winning athlete. Ronnie Garvin and Lanny Poffo thought they were going to teach The Rougeaus a wrestling lesson when they met in Rutland, Vermont. What a surprise Poffo got. Raymond caught him off the ropes with a power slam and that was the end of Lanny's leaping for the night," retired wrestling sensation Paul "Butcher" Vachon stated.

Perhaps the Rougeau's close association with Dino Bravo has hurt their chances at getting a shot

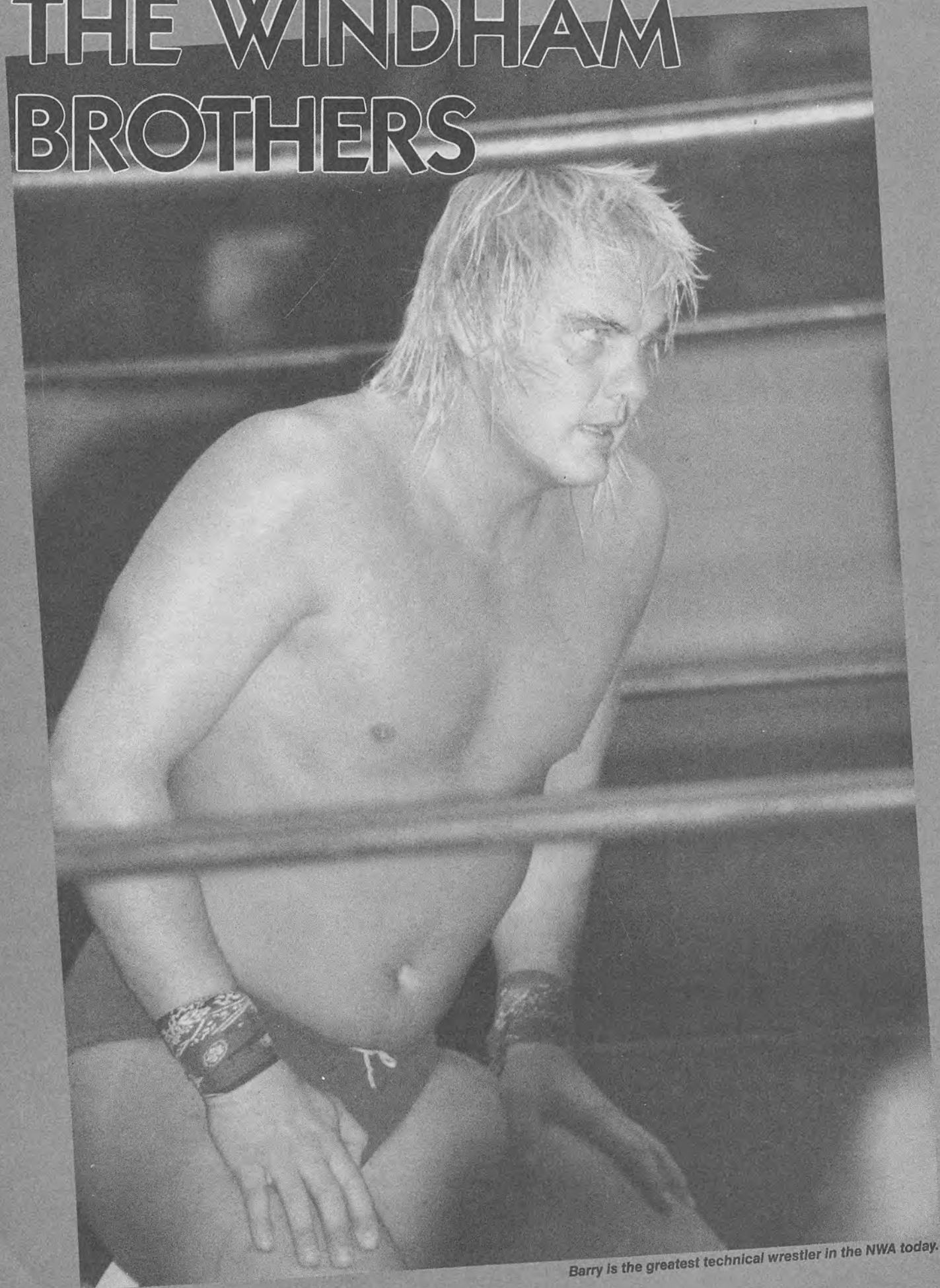


The Rougeaus double team Michaels.

at the championship? Since Bravo, a fellow Canadian, is number one on the WWF fans hate list, Raymond and Jacques are automatically clumped in the same category. What's not to like about them? Clean-shaven, well groomed and polite, they are men mothers would love for their daughters to bring home. The rap held against them by a minority in the wrestling world, a powerful and influential few that is, is Raymond and Jacques are wise-guys and untrusting. It's their excitable personalities that some insiders misinterpret to be a bit on the devilish side.

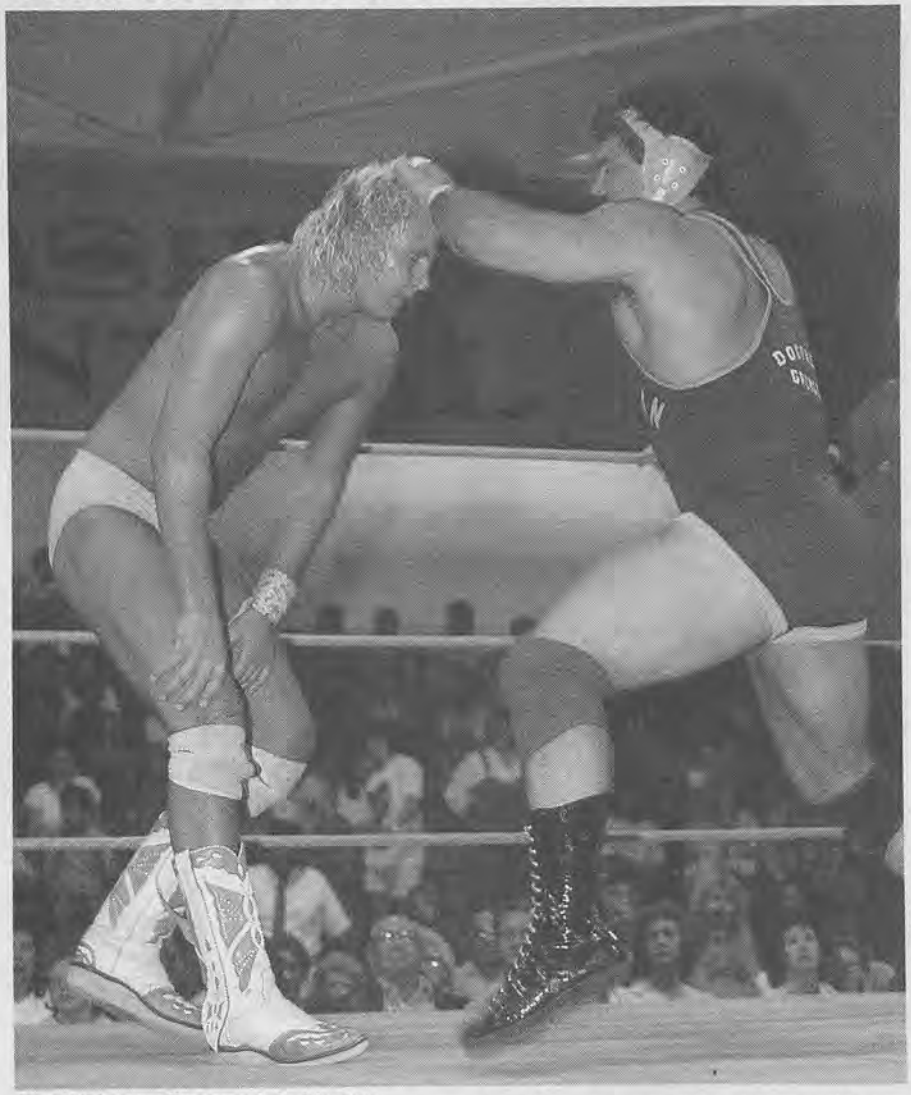
The Rockers and The Rougeaus are as interesting and relentless as any tag team in the WWF. Whether they clash with each other or other teams, their performances are worth a thrill a minute. Just think, when one or both teams finally get the chance at the title, new, unheard of or untested holds may pop up during the action and the battle will undoubtedly be remembered as a classic.

THE WINDHAM BROTHERS



Barry is the greatest technical wrestler in the NWA today.

WRESTLING'S NEWEST BAD BOYS



Kendall has really come into his own.

by Don Laible

You thought there were no more surprises left in the National Wrestling Alliance. Just when some mat experts were mumbling that the action in the NWA was becoming somewhat stale and there were no new happenings to get the fans' adrenaline pumping as it had in previous years, a most unlikely individual emerged above several well established veterans to steal the spotlight. There was a time when others referred to him solely as Barry Windham's younger brother and BlackJack Mulligan's son. Kendall Windham of Sweetwater, Texas has succeeded in establishing his own personality and ring style to now make him a leading force in professional wrestling. No longer just "one of the boys", Kendall has "tunnel vision" to reach his goals. Skill, speed and stamina have combined to put him in a championship bound category. Instead of being the hunter, he now knows what it feels like to be the hunted. Thus far, there are no complaints. As a matter of fact, Kendall is enjoying every minute of it.

For the past year, he toiled in obscurity while under contract with Jim Crockett Promotions. Based out of North Carolina, Kendall and those in power didn't click. At 6'5" 220 lbs., to the average fan and to some naive opponents, he was mistaken as a weaker and less intimidating opponent than his challengers were used to seeing. What an optical illusion Windham turned out to be. He didn't roll over and give up on a career in the heavyweight division because of the opinions others tossed to him.

"They say he's mean, he's dirty and a bit on the wild side. If he didn't do all he could to stand up to the Eddie Gilberts, Rick Steiners, and Lex Lugers, no one would take him seriously. Credibility is the most important attribute a wrestler has to offer. Even if he's over matched, bloodied or injured, if he stops and backs off from his challenge, forget it, no fan or promoter will ever want anything to do with him. Now all the training and experience is beginning to pay off for him, big-time," Steve "Dr. Death" Williams said.

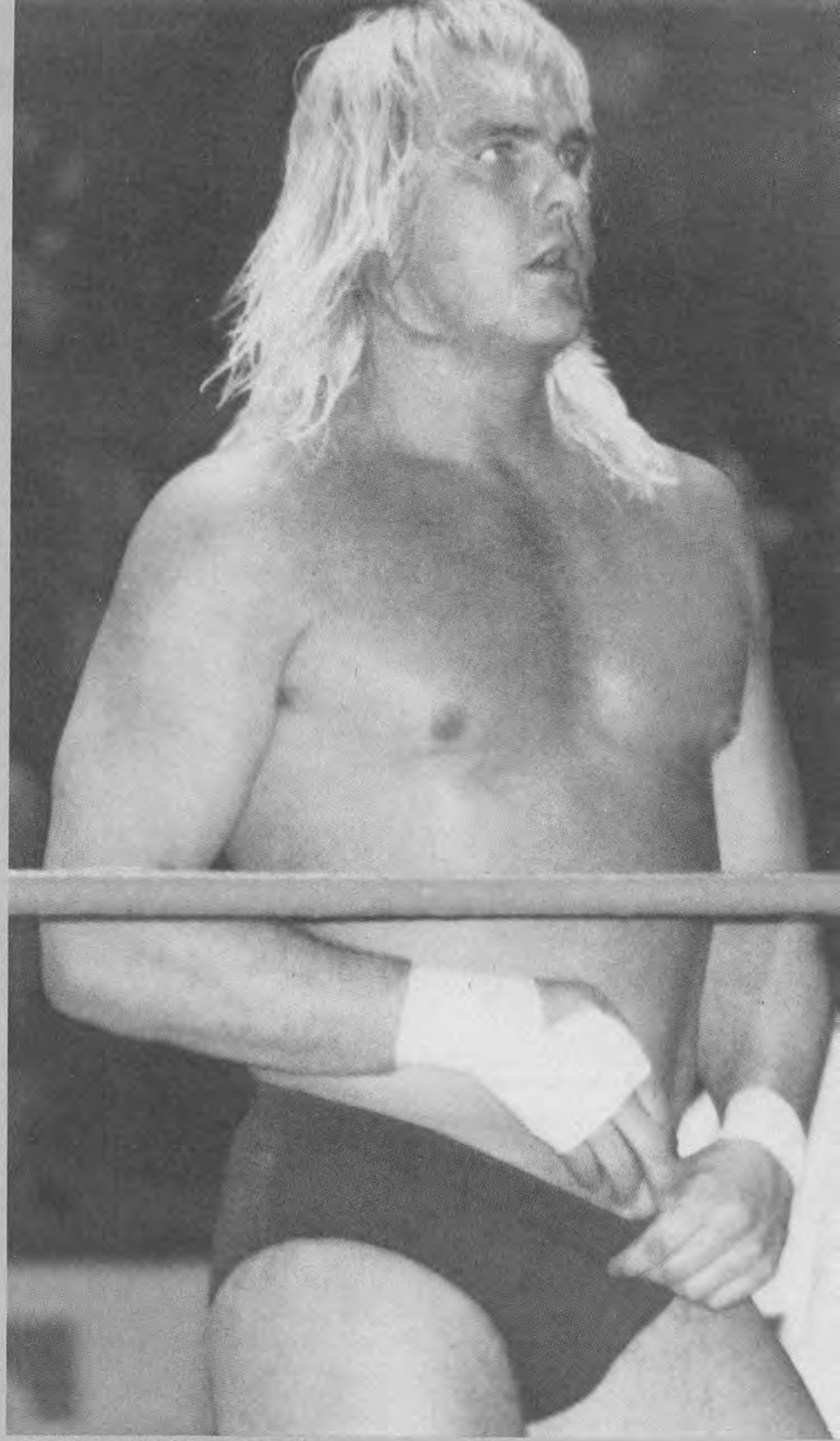
There's no denying it, the thin jokes have been all around him. Kendall has been able to ignore the remarks of those he says are jealous of his accomplishments. Manager Jim Cornette once said Kendall Windham is the only person who could tread water in a garden hose. He's made a case in his defense against all those wisecracks directed at him. A wimp he is not. He has proven that for dozens of promotional bodies throughout the Southwest and Mid-Atlantic states. After his first stint with Crockett Promotions, the World Class Championship Wrestling organization was his next employer. His ring outings would have earned him over-time wages, should he have been paid by the hour. Before long, fans from all over the state of Texas were behind his efforts. "He was the working class man's hero," Kerry Von Erich stated. It seemed none of his matches in Dallas or Forth Worth that I watched were easy for him. The Texas Heavyweight Title he won was a trophy he worked darn hard for. A few times we worked out together in the weightroom. Let me tell you, he lifted weights without a struggle no less, far in excess of his own body weight. His muscles don't bulge out but he's one tough dude. He reminds me of his father, just as tough as a bull inside the ring."

It was his tour in the WCCW which started the course of his success to climb rapidly. The true talents began to emerge for all to judge. He met up with his childhood friend Dustin Rhodes. They became a well polished tag team under the billing of "The Texas Broncos". Now remember, those

that challenged the two budding mat idols were not your ordinary athletes. The winning tradition established by their superstar fathers, BlackJack Mulligan and Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes, was in their blood. They both learned their craft in highly competitive circuits in Florida under the watchful eye of some of the sport's all-time greats. Dory Funk, Jr., Mike Graham and the late "Bruiser" Brody all took an interest in lending their time and expertise to help make Kendall's career get off on the right track.

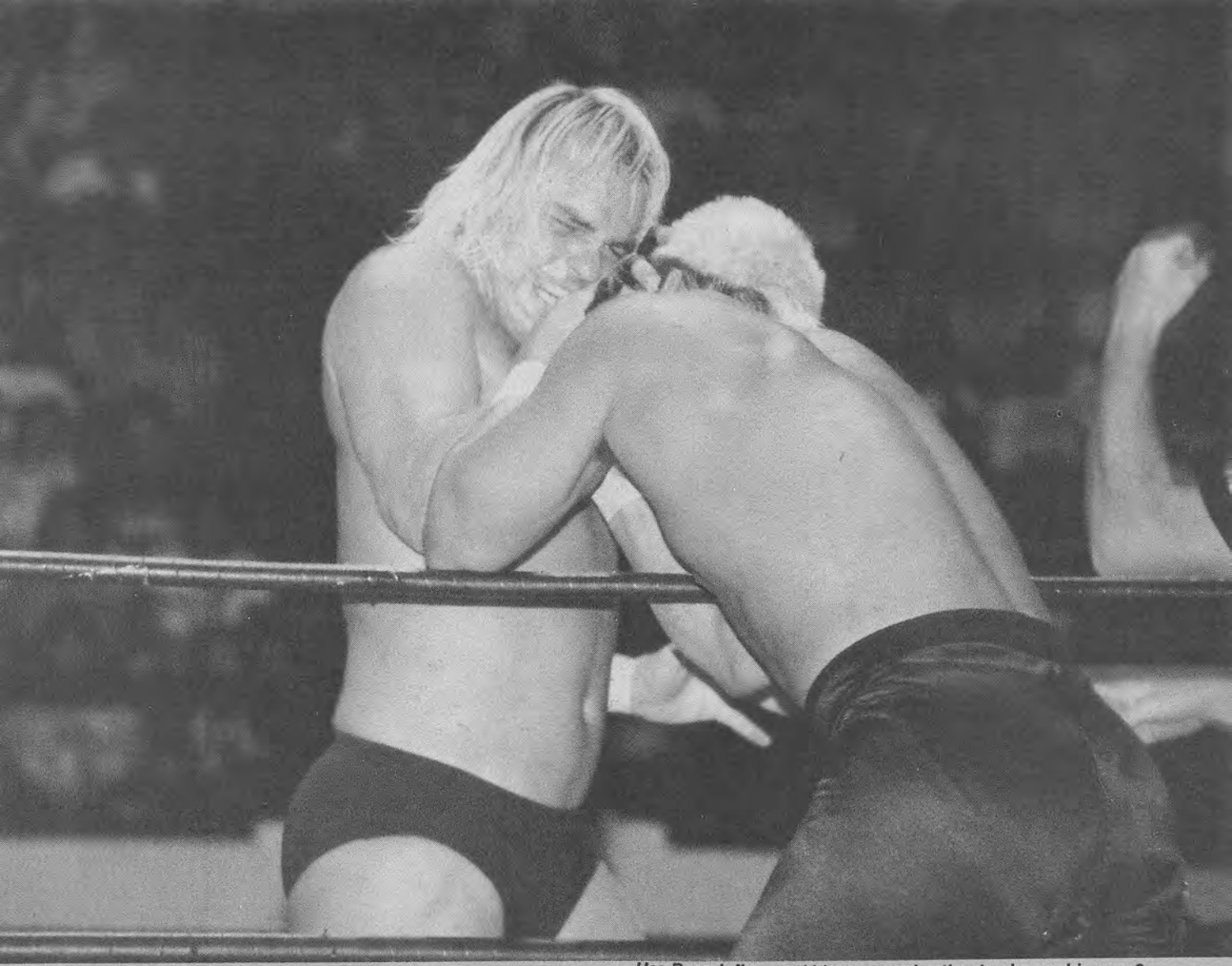
Kevin Sullivan, currently one of the most unpredictable grapplers the NWA has, was among those who Windham successfully manhandled in the "Sunshine" state. "When he wasn't dodging the fireballs flung at him by Sullivan, the double teaming antics of The Might Yankees were his main concerns. I teamed with him in Tampa against the masked Yankees. After he embarrassed them thoroughly with a series of dropkicks sending them over the top rope, they came after him with the ring steps. They both carried the heavy wooden stairs and narrowly missed hitting him. It didn't shake his confidence at all, it just made him more determined to come away with the win, which we did," Mike Graham, himself a second generation wrestler, said from Orlando, Florida.

Fine tuned and ready to stake their claim at the world tag team championship as recognized by the NWA, the "Broncos" started from the bottom of the rankings and quickly reached the top five slots to the championship. The Commandos: Ray Candy and Grizzly Boone and Paul E. Dangerously's Original Midnight Express were their initial championship caliber challengers. The challenge to oppose more experienced and larger foes (the Commandos' combined weight was near 750 lbs.) was enticing to Kendall and his partner. At the time, although a fan favorite, Kendall's older brother Barry was one of the most despised athletes by the fans in the arenas of which the NWA appeared. Barry Windham, a member of wrestling's elite group then known as the "Four Horsemen", wore the United States Championship belt, under the guidance of J.J. Dillon. As the saying goes, "blood is thicker than water", with the vacancies created among the "Horsemen" ranks with the departure of Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson to the World Wrestling Federation, it wasn't too difficult to figure out Kendall's next career move.



Barry's reaching for something!!!

The opportunities were mapped out by big brother Barry and Dillon. Kendall debated long and hard over which avenue to take. The decision-making time was made in a unique position. During a rare tag encounter without Dustin at his side, it was "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert with whom Kendall chose to battle the unit comprised of Barry

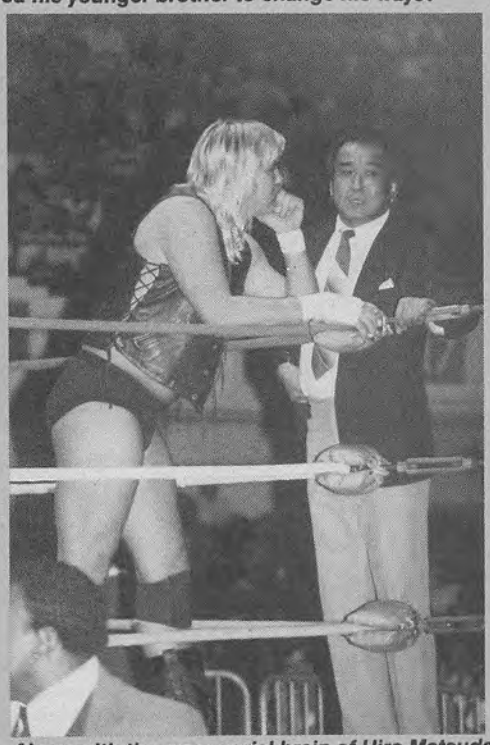


Has Barry influenced his younger brother to change his ways?

Windham and J.J. Dillon. Talk about a set up! Kendall certainly picked a strange way of making a statement many insiders knew was coming. Without notice or provocation, in an instance, Kendall turned against his partner, his fans and his values. He slugged and stomped Gilbert at will smiling with each blow. Barry and J.J. not only approved of his actions but joined in on the slaughter. From that day in early January 1989, Kendall Windham was no longer adored but put in the same category as his brother. Along with Butch Reed, they have had much success in battling many of the most skilled tag teams in the NWA.

Kendall's move hasn't stagnated his ring worth one bit. In fact, the main event offers and championship matches have accelerated in numbers. With brother Barry in his corner, the highly talented twosome of Ron Simmons and The Junk Yard Dog were their first casualties. "My brother has made great strides in recent months. There are many top names in the NWA shaking in their boots hoping he doesn't sign his name to the open contracts they have agreed upon with promoters. Ricky Steamboat better watch his back real carefully or else he'll be laying flat on it to a referee's three count," a confident Barry Windham declared.

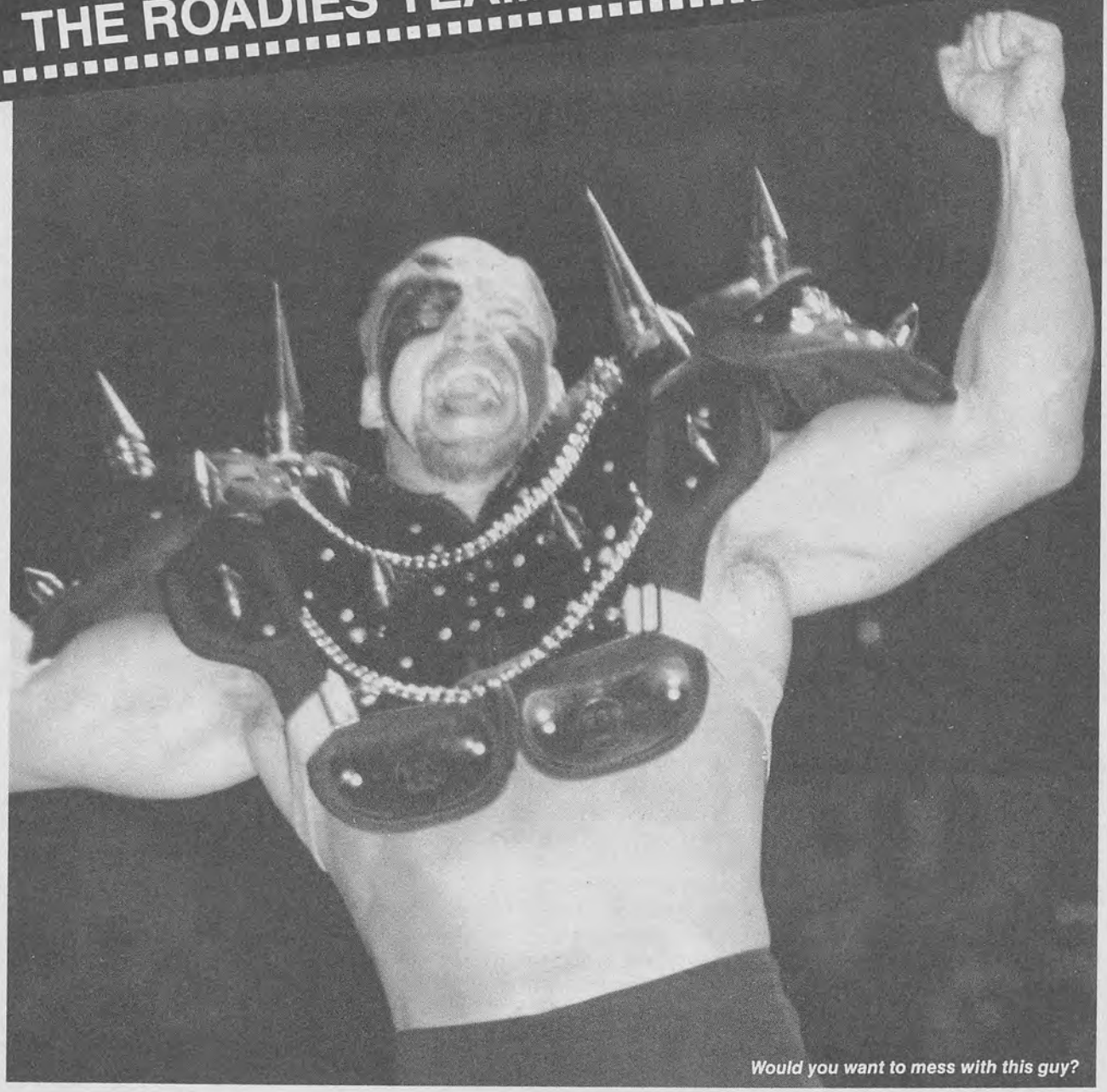
Now recognized as a full fledged star in wrestling's most prestigious organization, Kendall's services are being sought by those "promising him the moon". What a luxurious position to be in. One thing you can count on, big brother Barry will oversee all his activities. He's for real, no fluke or challenger on a lucky streak. Without a doubt, Kendall Windham has solidified his spot as wrestling's newest wild and bad boy.



Along with the managerial brain of Hiro Matsuda, how can the Windhams lose?

TRIPLE THREAT!!!

THE ROADIES TEAM WITH TENRYU



Would you want to mess with this guy?

by Don Laible

The National Wrestling Alliance has definitely strengthened their case in boasting a roster loaded with many of the sport's toughest, most aggressive athletes with the signing of Japan's Genichiro Tenryu. Since the native of Katsuyama, Japan has taken on bookings for the Atlanta, Georgia based organization he has been a constant companion and frequent tag partner in six man encounters, with the Road Warriors. They are together for a very good reason. They hold the NWA World Six Man Tag Team Title. If you thought Animal and Hawk were "bad to the bone" before allowing Tenryu to join their "Legion of Doom", think again. Under the management of "Precious" Paul Ellering they are now a triple threat of danger to whomever stands across the ring from them. Known in the Orient as their version of the American Warriors, Tenryu compliments the style and savagery displayed by Animal and Hawk. Never foreseen as a safe and injury free profession, The Road Warriors and Tenryu have just made wrestling an even more

hazardous way to earn a living.

Wrestling fans throughout North America know what damage the Warriors can do to a human body. At times it's as if Animal and Hawk toy with their challengers until the amusement is gone and they put the crunch on them. Many wrestlers, including those consistently ranked in the top ten of the heavyweight division have had backs sprained and ligaments pulled and twisted until a stretcher was needed to cart them out of the ring. Although they grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Warriors call Chicago, Illinois their home. At over 6'0" and 280 lbs. each, the six year wrestling veterans can say and do virtually as they wish and go uncontested. As tag team specialists, they have become so acquainted with one's moves that often times they react to what they anticipate will happen before the actual hold is executed. That togetherness, the partnership bond, is also very familiar to Tenryu's style.

For the past twelve years as a pro, the 6'1" 250 lb. protege of Giant Baba has preferred tag team action over single's competition. In recent times, with partner Toshiaki Kawada, Tenryu has been in a brutal feud with fan favorites Jumbo Tsuruta and Yoshiaki Yatsue. The encounters between the four men have resulted in sell-outs from Tokyo to Sapporo. With Tsuruta and Yatsue's Pacific Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championship at stake in Tokyo's Budokan Hall, Tenryu seemed split as to what he wanted most to accomplish in the match, stay relatively within the rulebook so not to lose out on a disqualification or just plain do all in his power to beat his opponents to a pulp. Unfortunately the anger between both teams over shadowed their athletic talents and levelheadedness and made them all uncontrollable to the point of forcing the referee to declare a no contest result.

As unorthodox and bizarre his actions have been, Japanese fans have found it nearly impossible not to respect his ring repertoire. As a gesture of their strange appreciation for his performances, Tenryu was voted most popular native wrestler by the readers of GONG MAGAZINE for 1988, the Japanese equivalent of WRESTLING EYE. While engaged in a match with Rusher Kimura, before their match on the same show, Animal, Hawk and "Precious" Paul came out of their dressing room to see what all the commotion was about. Tenryu's suplexes and flying body blocks were responsible for getting the audience on their feet and screaming at the top of their lungs.

The Legion of Doom is awesome.

Paul Ellering has nothing but praise for Tenryu. "We knew he was out of the ordinary when we saw him throw Kimura around the ring as if he owned him. The three of us agreed he was our kind of guy, right then and there. Lord

Why is Tenryu giving a peace sign?

Will Tenryu and the Roadies gain top six man tag status?

James Blears introduced Tenryuto to us and we hit it off from the first meeting. Honestly, the only barrier between us was the language. However, he can speak enough English for us to communicate. The Warriors and Tenryu teamed up in several six man tag matches during the tour and went undefeated. When he expressed interest in coming to the States to test the stars of the NWA we couldn't resist. Tenryu has been anything but a disappointment to us."

The trio of The Junk Yard Dog, "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert and Rick Steiner were the first of a dozen teams to fall to the wayside of the Warriors and their new associate. Tenryu picked out the Dog from the onset of their matchup in Tampa, Florida as the person whom he saw as the weak link. To coin a phrase, he "ran circles around him". There was no debate as to who was more agile, quicker and more lethal with his powerful dropkicks as Tenryu controlled the Dog. After getting the thumbs down signal from Animal and Hawk, the end came as the "Japanese Terror" leaped off the top rope onto a weakened Dog and flattened him on the canvas. Out of breath and fighting spirit, the referee counted to three. Another impressive six man tag victory went into the record books for Animal, Hawk and Tenryu.

There are many insiders close to the NWA that are saying Tenryu's true reason for appearing in the States is to have the opportunity to study for weeks at a time the movements of Ric "Nature Boy" Flair. When the best of the East meets the top single's heavyweight of the West there's no telling how many thousands of fans would be turned away at the arena gates. "Flair has been a great champion during his career but Tenryu is ten times more dangerous. He can flatten an opponent with his knowledge of the martial arts or use his unpredictability to his advantage. Just when guys like "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton or Ron Simmons thought they had his next move all figured out he tripped them up with a totally difference counter attack," Kevin Sullivan explained inside the Cincinnati Gardens dressing room.

While Animal, Hawk and Tenryu have been practically begging promoters to secure them with well qualified challengers, there is talk and negotiations in the preliminary stages of Ricky Steamboat, Sting and Lex Luger combining forces for a six man clash surely to be remembered for years to come. Baltimore, Maryland appears to be the odds on favorite site, should all parties concerned agree to a contract. Instead of being the chaser, the Roadies are now the chased. "Anytime they need assistance, I'll come to their side with both fists clenched and ready to bust heads," "Doctor Death" Steve Williams proclaimed on behalf of his close friends The Road Warriors. To take the highly rumored clash one step further, former NWA Heavyweight Champion Pat O'Connor is said to be the one man both teams would agree on as the special guest referee.

There is still so much untapped potential within Animal, Hawk and Genichiro Tenryu that the true greatness awaiting them is difficult to predict. Many questions are still out to be addressed by Ellering's "gang". A wait amd see attitude needs to be adopted. In the meantime, there are going to be a great many unhappy opponents wishing they had never agreed to meet them in the ring. Title belts, six figure pay checks and the honor of being the most intimidating and difficult athletes in the NWA is all that matters to them.

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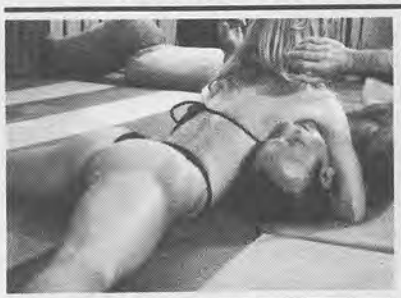

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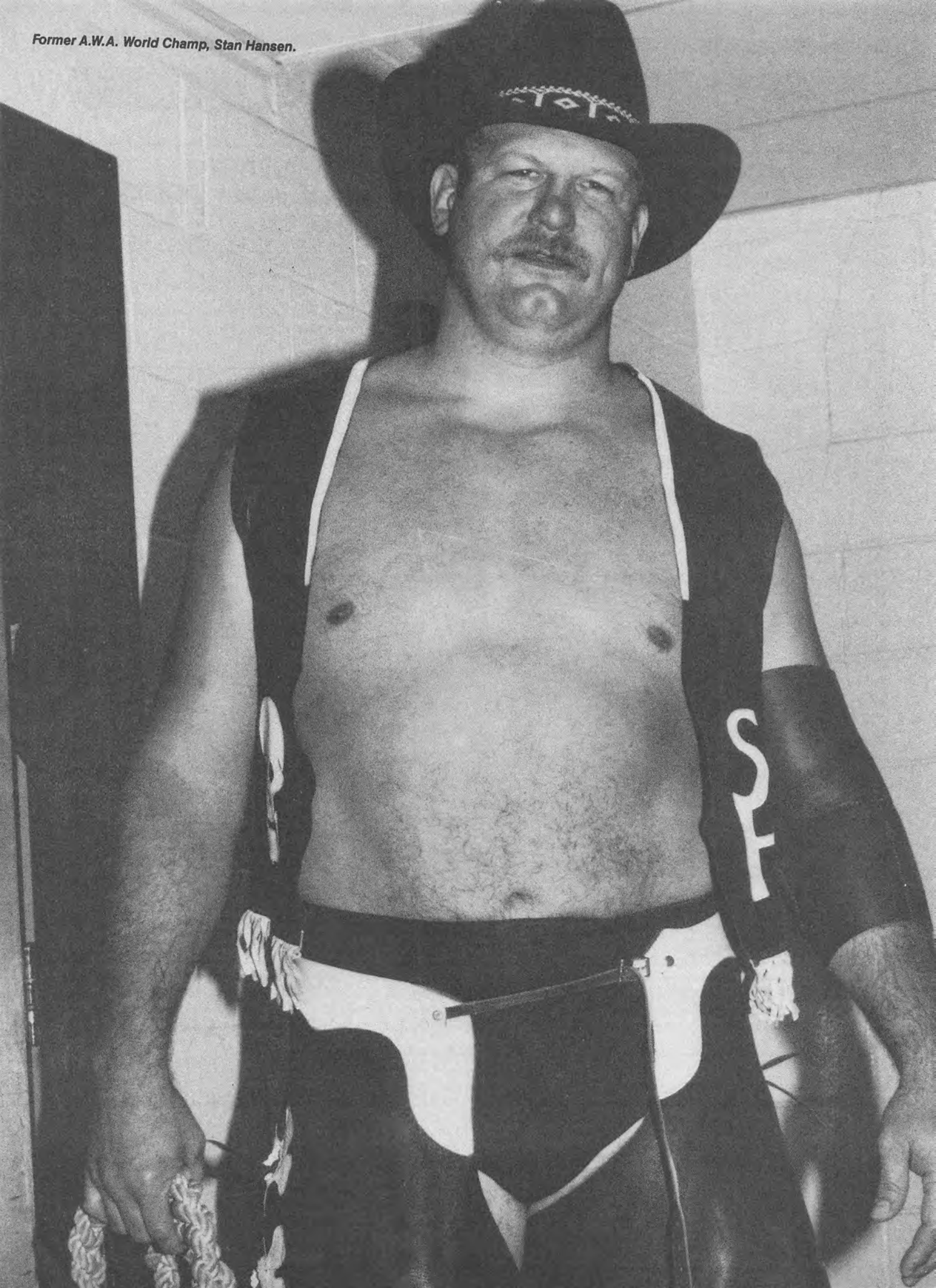


Former A.W.A. World Champ, Stan Hansen.

STAN HANSEN

THE COWBOY OF THE ORIENT

by Steve Mueller Photos by Brian Razzi

The crowd sounded like a million lions roaring in unison as the legendary hero stepped out of the darkness under the archway above the dressing room exit ramp. The arena building shook as if struck by a renegade earthquake. Little children, straining to get a glimpse of their hero, pressed themselves against the guard rails lining the aisle to the ring. Fans leaped and slammed their hands together. Spotlights blinked in rhythm with the music blaring from P.A. speakers. Hands reached toward the hero as he began to run toward the ring.

This could only have been the entrance of one of wrestling's premier heroes. Who? Hulk Hogan surely. No? Maybe it was Randy Savage when he was still Hogan's buddy? Maybe Bruno in his prime? Rowdy Roddy after he turned good?

No, it was Stan Hansen.

Stan Hansen? Stan "The Lariat" Hansen? The Badman from Borger? The Texas wildman who was so nasty and ornery that he once knocked the defenders of the Alamo for losing. What was happening here? Was this some surreal science fiction fantasy? The deepest nightmare of a wrestling booker? A bizarre alternate reality where left is right and good is bad?

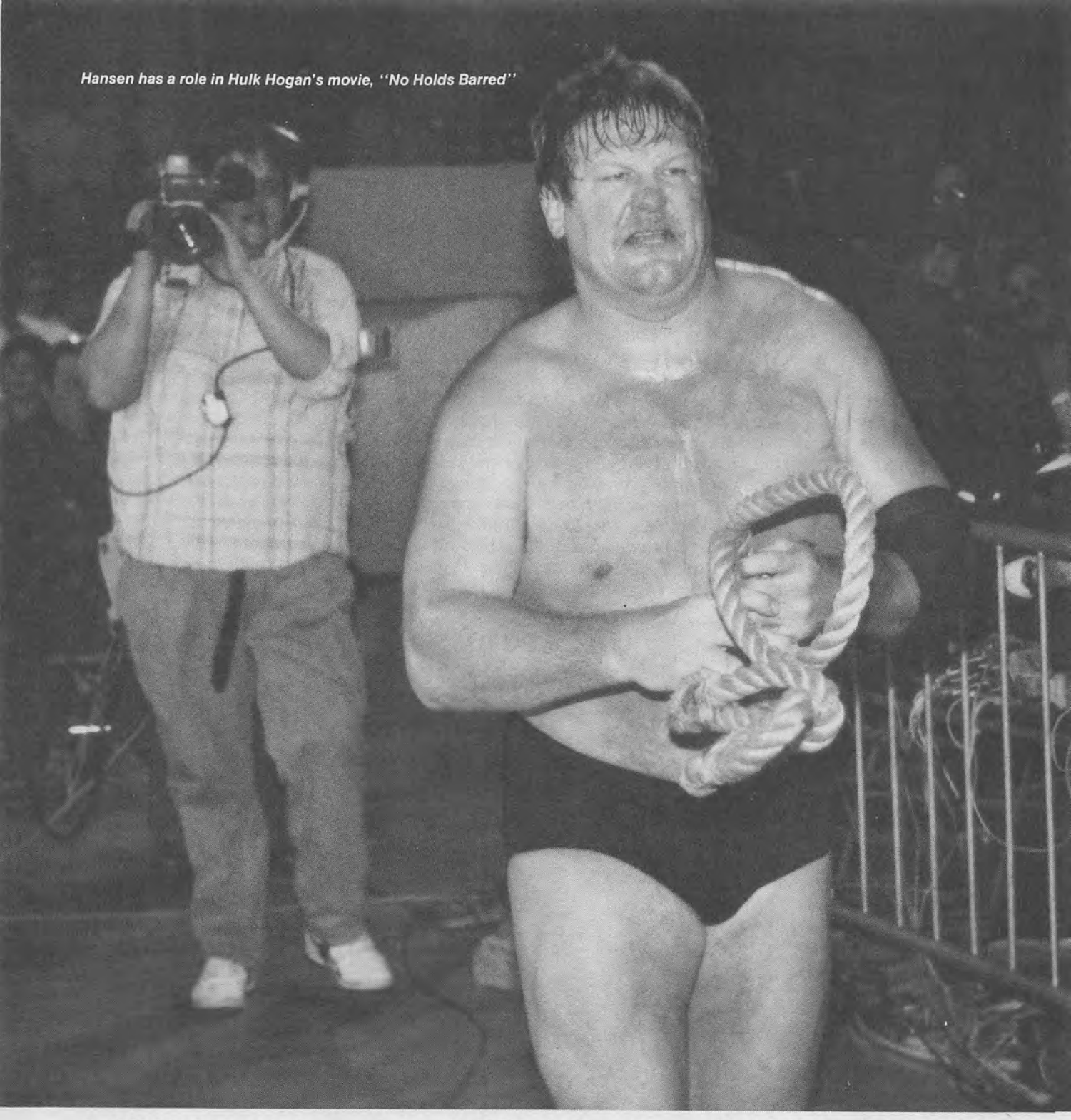
No, this was Japan.

In the Land of the Rising Sun, Stan Hansen is the Japanese John Wayne. The number one hero in all the land. Bigger than Baba and Inoki. Hansen is the hero who has shouldered the legacy of the murdered Bruiser Brody. In Japan, Brody was a national hero who was as revered as a native emperor. Hansen is now experiencing a similar degree of devotion. Before his matches begin, the badman from Borger leads the crowd in chants of "Bro-dy, Bro-dy, Bro-dy" as if he were the high priest of a dark cult invoking the power of a martyred god.

In reality, Hansen is that and more. Stan "the Lariat" is a unique performer who has mastered all the nuances of the brawler style of wrestling, a style used by many but effective for only a few. Successful as both a heel and a face, Hansen has appeared for virtually every promotion of significance in the sport. Why then is his home base Japan? Why isn't he headlining Wrestlemania or Starcade cards? Actually, his absence from major American arenas is understandable, or at least explicable as just another strange inequity, when his tempestuous career is examined.

Hansen's list of titles is impressive. He has been NWA International Champion, the Pacific Coast Champion, the Universal Champion, the Southern Heavyweight Champion, the Texas Champion, the Georgia Champion, the PWF Champion and on and on. Certainly a man with so many regional titles must be considered a likely world champion. But it is the World Title, in its many versions, that has caused Stan most of his problems with the major American promotions.

Hansen along with his partner, Terry 'Bam Bam' Gordy.



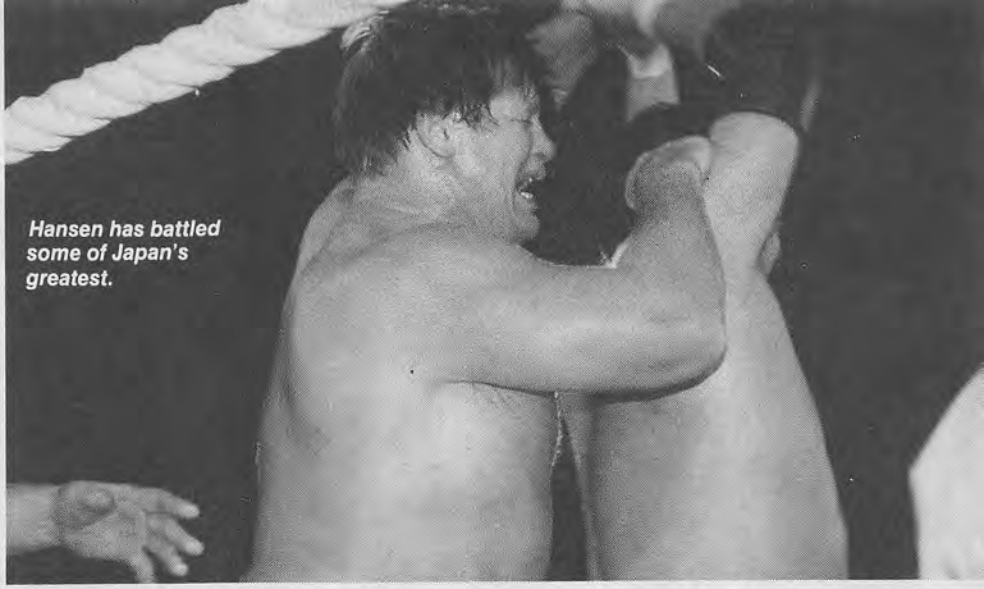
Hansen has a role in Hulk Hogan's movie, "No Holds Barred"

In 1976, The Badman broke Bruno Sammartino's neck with the lariat in Bruno's home arena, Madison Square Garden. Yet, Hansen did not win Sammartino's world title. During Bob Backlund's title reign, Stan left Backlund a bloody defeated foe and yet once again, he did not win the title. After that, Stan no longer accepted calls from WWF promoters.

Hansen's problems with American promotions were even more evident when he did win a version of the World Title. On December 29th, 1985, in the Brendan Byrne Arena in the New Jersey Meadowlands, Stan scored one of the most impressive victories of his 18 year career.

The match was brutal. A typical Hansen demonstration of non-stop aggression. Rick Martel was so battered by the terrible Texan that he submitted to Hansen's savage Texas Brazos hold, a version of the Boston Crab. Not only was Hansen's effective brutality unforgettable, but this was the only time in recent memory that a champion in any federation lost his title by submitting. Critics said this was the beginning of the rebirth of the AWA. At last that wayward association would have a champion who could carry it into national prominence, a champion with the charisma of a Hogan or a Flair. However, it was not to be.

Some seven months later, on June 29th, 1986, when he failed to appear for a match in Denver, Col-



Hansen has battled some of Japan's greatest.

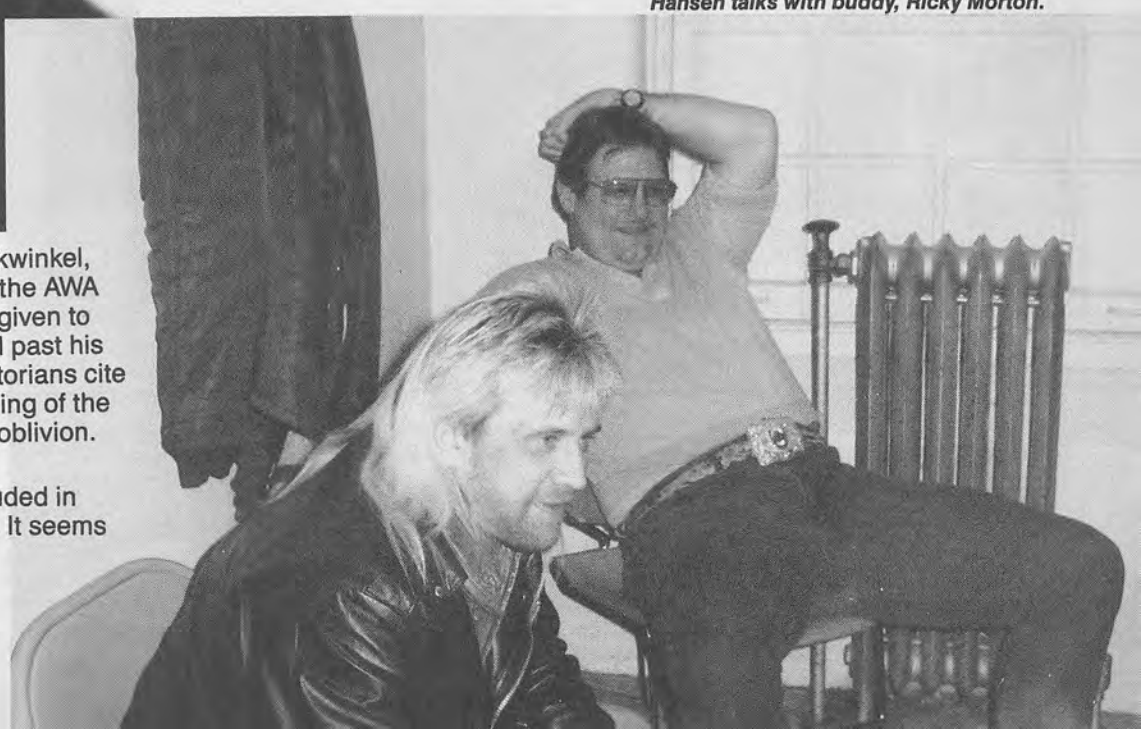
Stan came to be considered "difficult" by the AWA's Czar, Verne Gagne. Stan was so aggressive and so sure of the right way to perform in the ring that he ignored all suggestions from Verne regarding the best way for an AWA champion to represent the association. It is said by some that Verne came to dislike Hansen's independence so much that he arranged for the title defense in Denver on a night when he knew there was no chance of Hansen appearing. Some others say that Hansen was so disgusted by Verne's feeble suggestions that he quit the promotion a few days before the scheduled title defense. In any case, Stan Hansen was not long for the mainstream American wrestling scene.

In July of 1986, Hansen wrestled in Puerto Rico and still called himself the AWA world champion.

Soon after, he returned to Japan where he has stayed save for a few sporadic appearances for independent American promotions.

Stan Hansen is now one of the very few American wrestlers who has flourished without allegiance to a major promotion. Bruiser Brody was one of these "outlaws"; others include Terry Gordy, Abdullah the Butcher, and of late, Bam Bam Bigelow. Their number is few, but their wrestling is great. And so, because of his inability to coexist with the current method of American wrestling promotion, Stan "the Lariat" Hansen, the Badman from Borger, will continue to be Japan's greatest hero. In a way, it is sad. His exuberance, his charisma, his ability to raise more heat than the sun in the Texas Panhandle on a summer day, is badly needed in American rings.

Hansen talks with buddy, Ricky Morton.



orado, against Nick Bockwinkel, Hansen was stripped of the AWA world title. The title was given to Bockwinkel, by then well past his prime, and wrestling historians cite that event as the beginning of the AWA's final decline into oblivion. Why did it happen?

The reasons are shrouded in controversy and conflict. It seems

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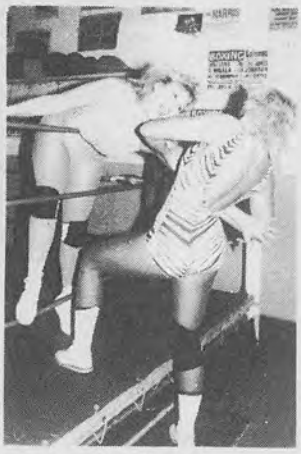

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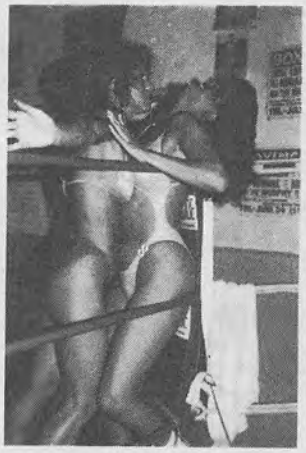

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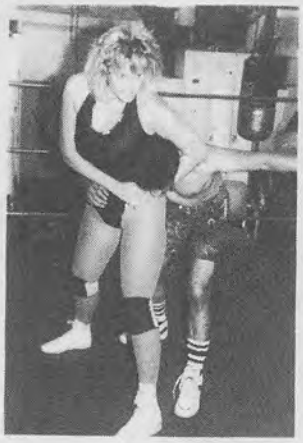

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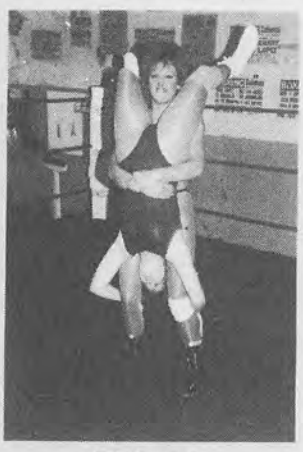

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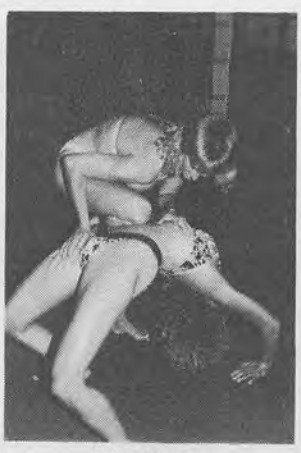

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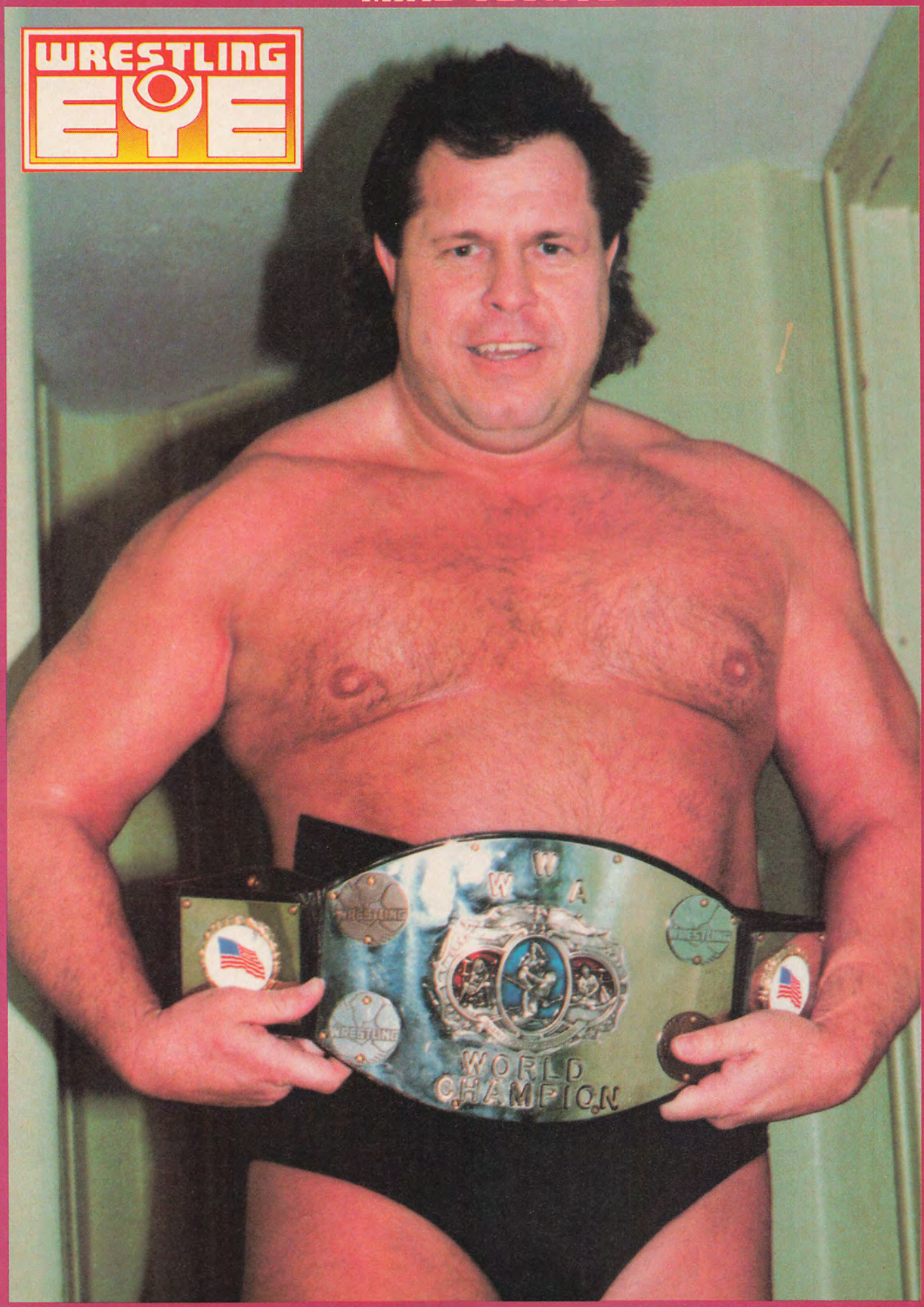

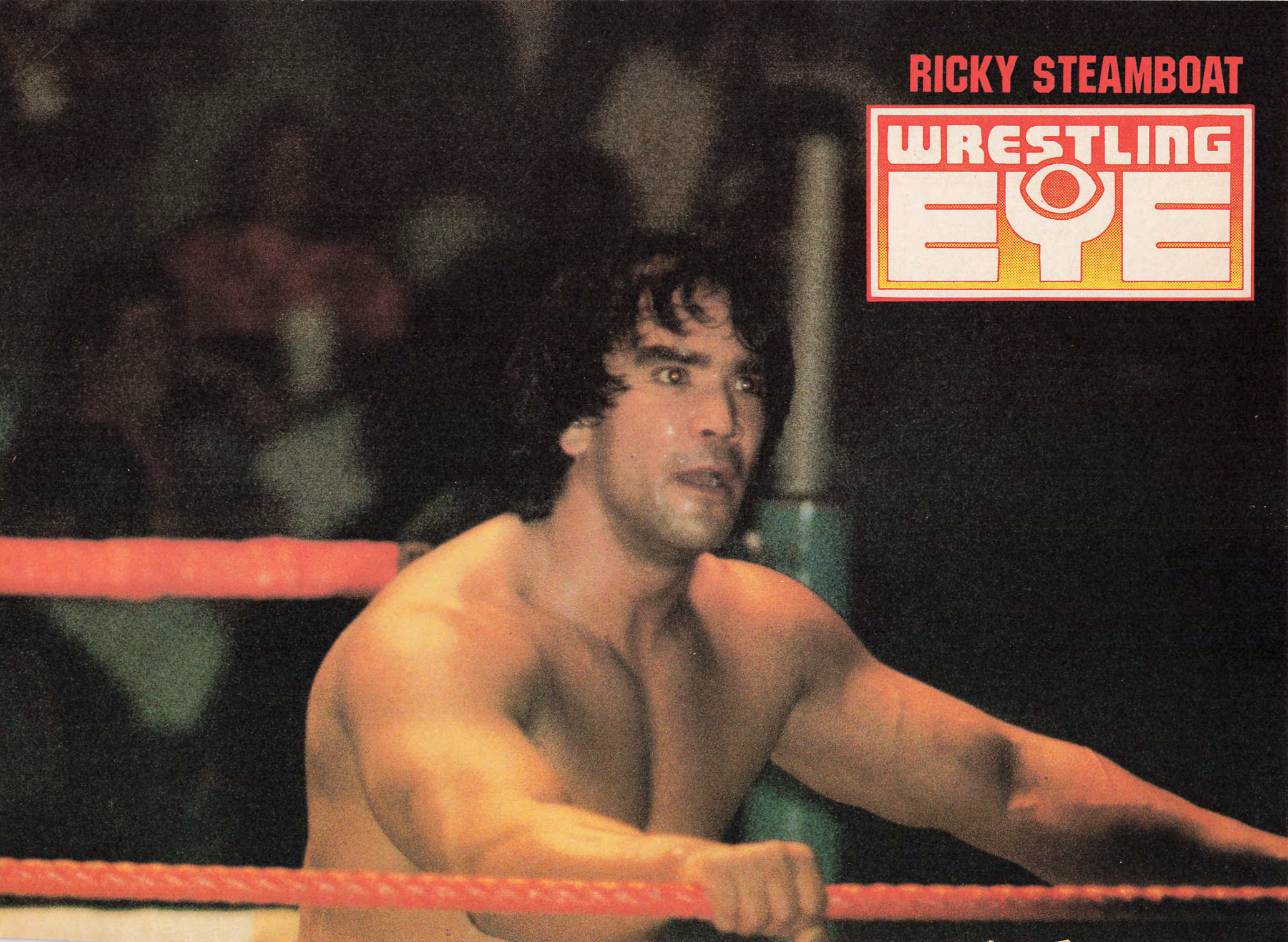
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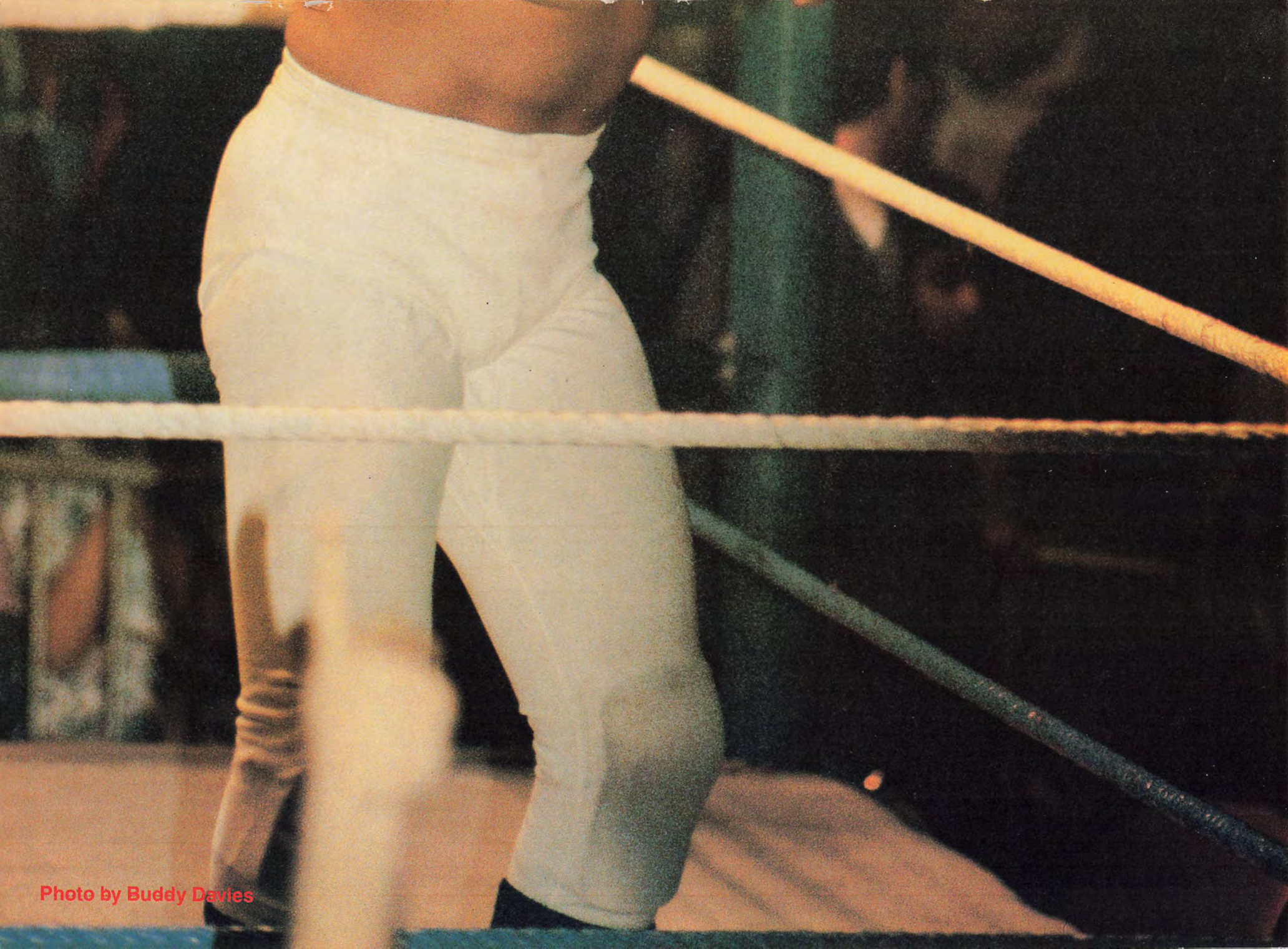

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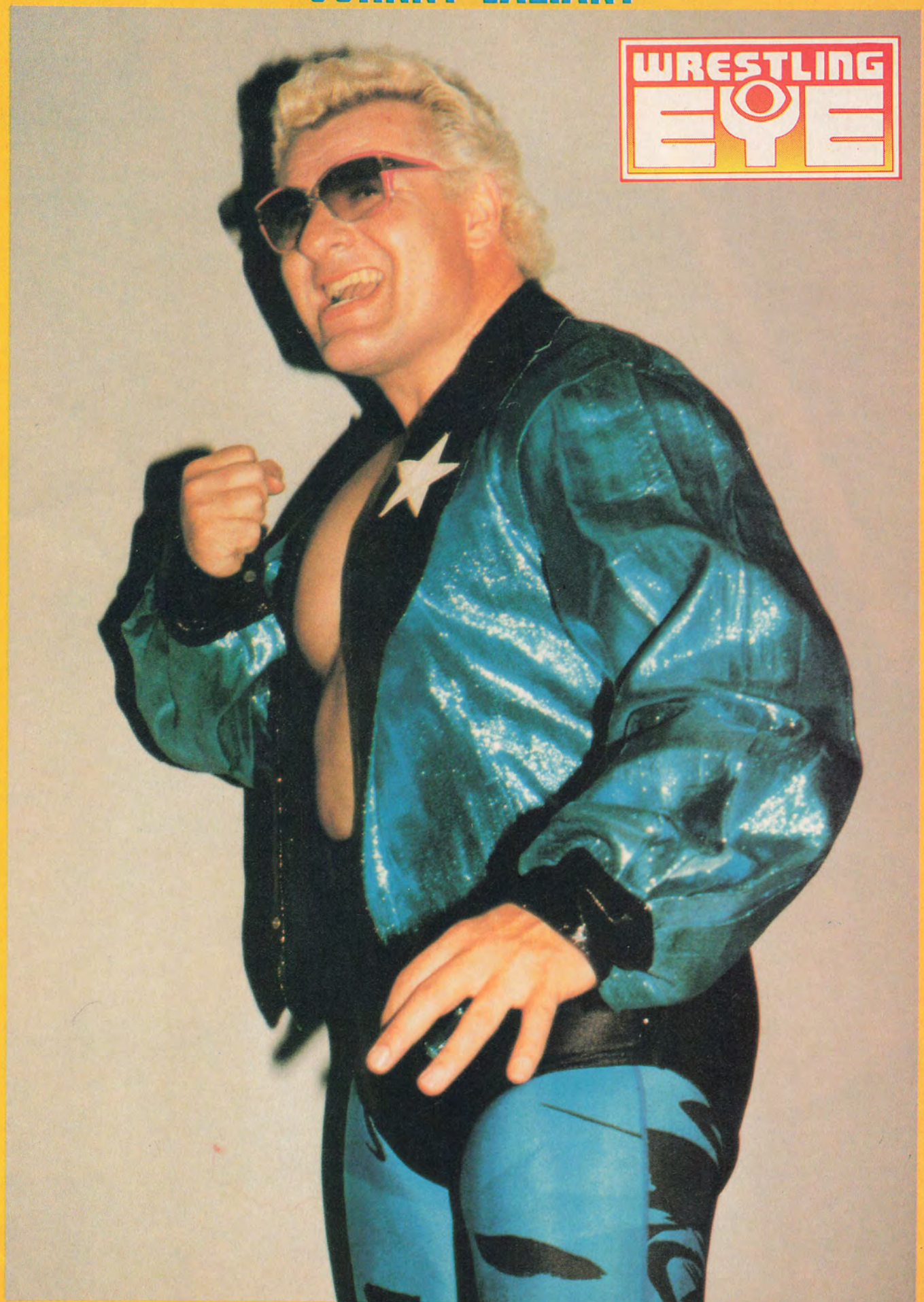
JOHNNY VALIANT



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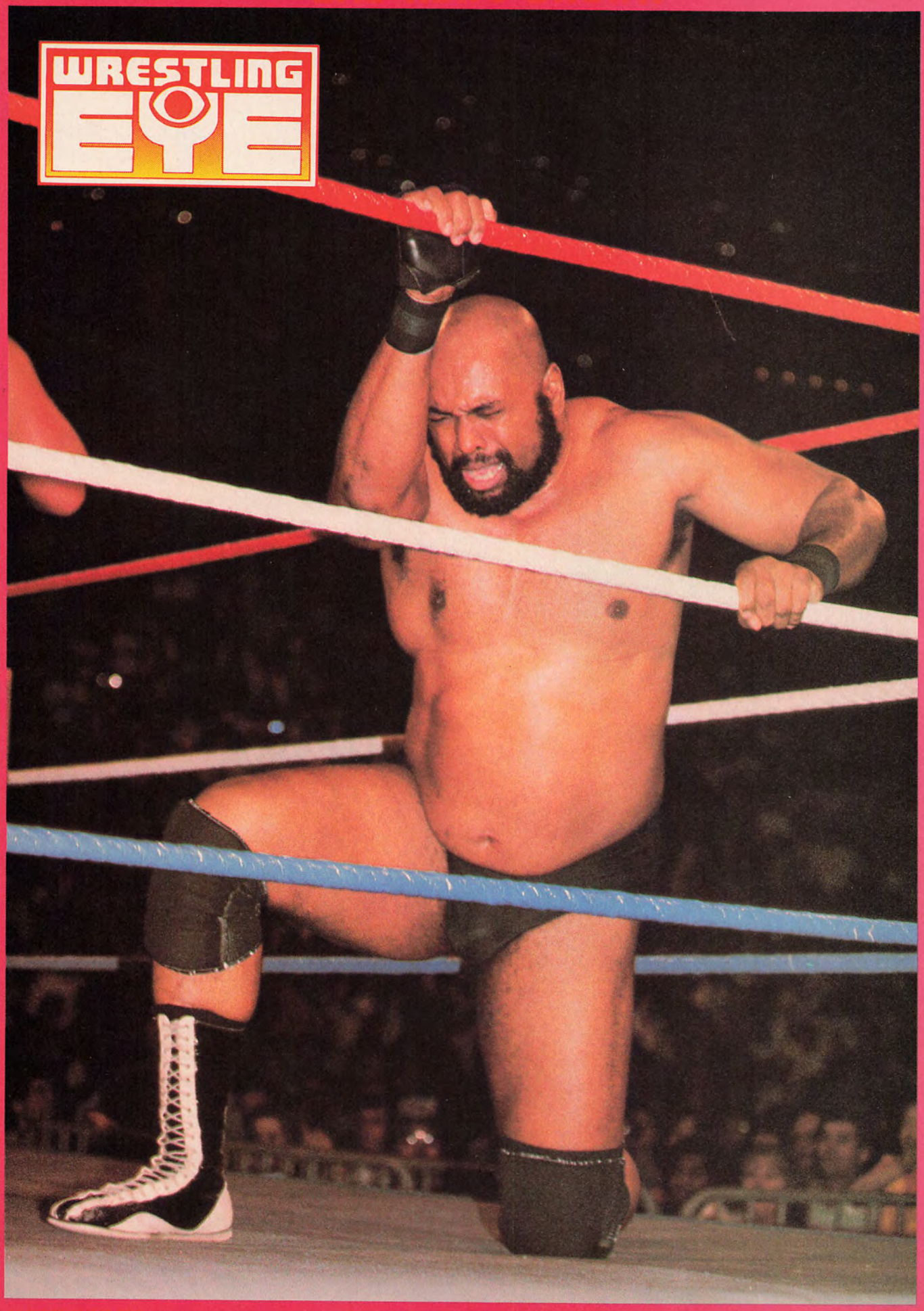

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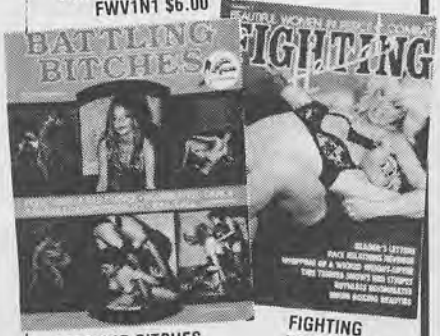

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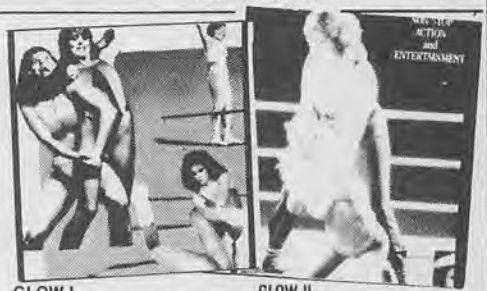

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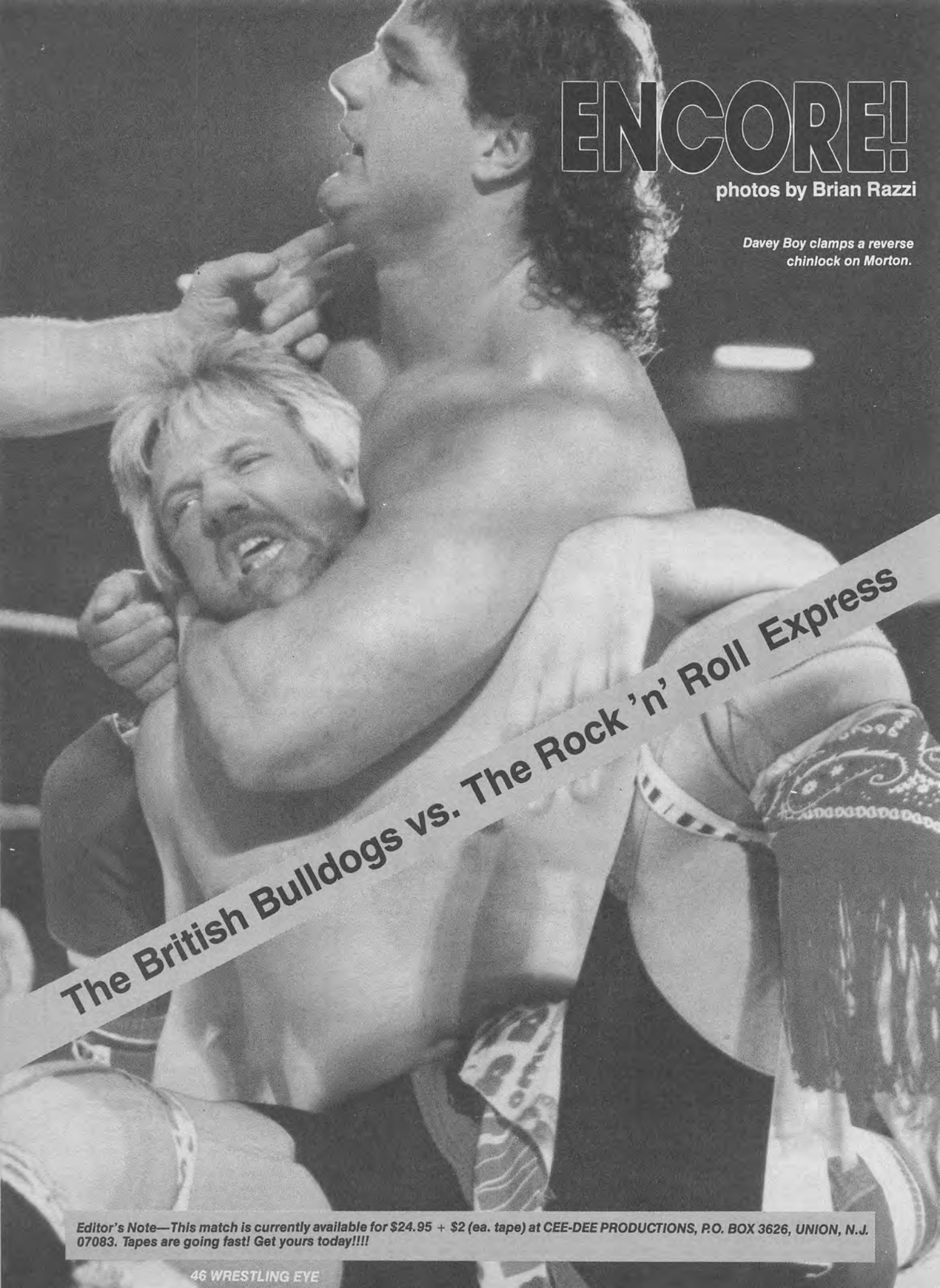


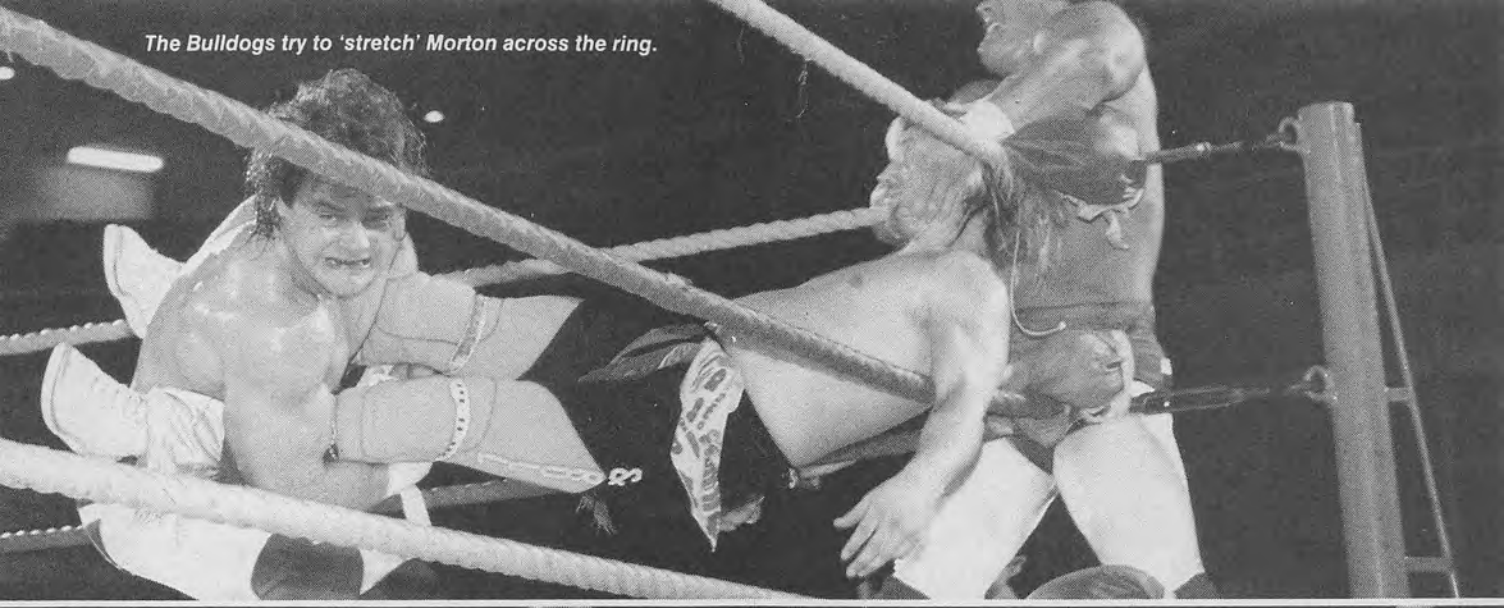
ENCORE!

photos by Brian Razzi

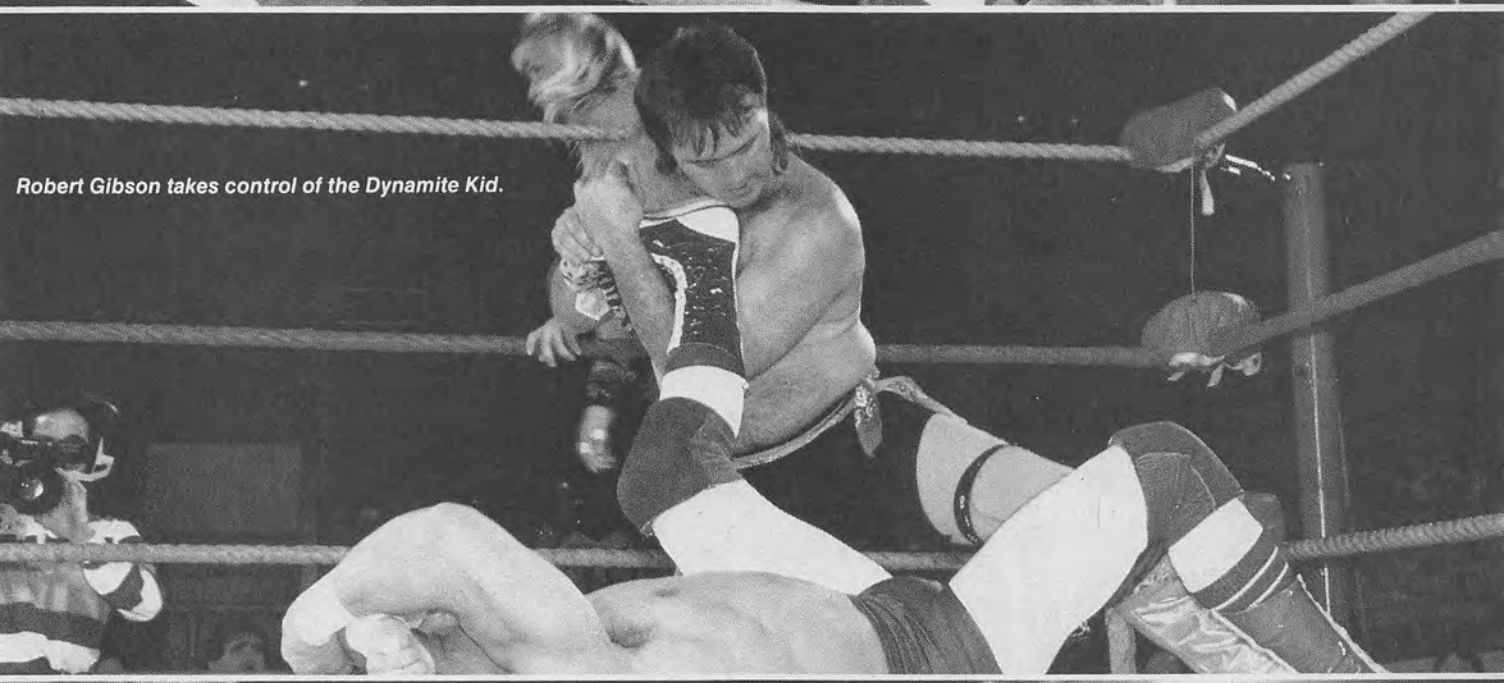
Davey Boy clamps a reverse chinlock on Morton.

The British Bulldogs vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express

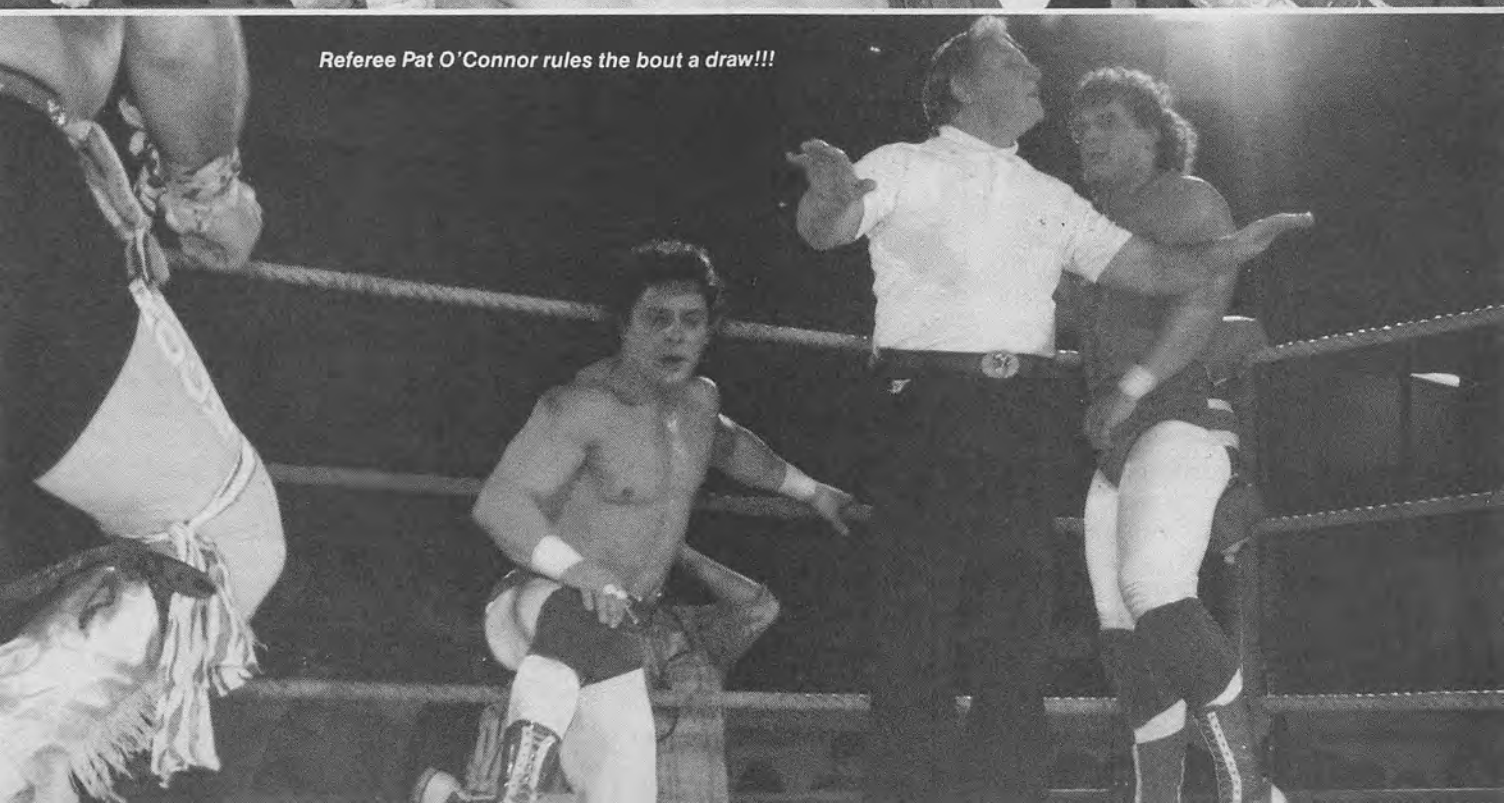
Editor's Note—This match is currently available for $24.95 + $2 (ea. tape) at CEE-DEE PRODUCTIONS, P.O. BOX 3626, UNION, N.J. 07083. Tapes are going fast! Get yours today!!!!



The Bulldogs try to 'stretch' Morton across the ring.



Robert Gibson takes control of the Dynamite Kid.



Referee Pat O'Connor rules the bout a draw!!!

Pride of the Ayotollah!

The Iron Sheik Attacks The N.W.A.!!

by Tom Clutters

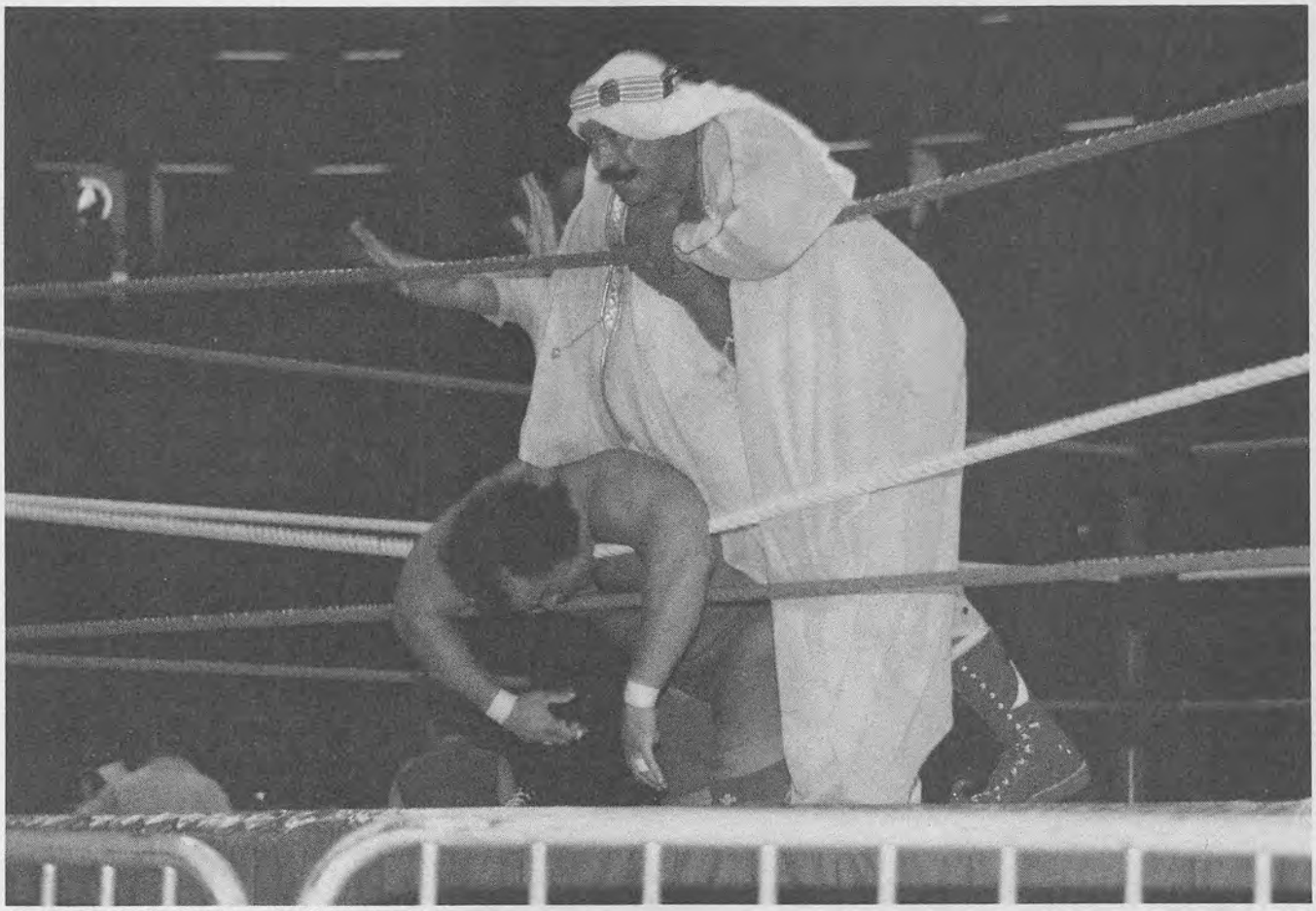
Ever since the fall of the Shah of Iran, that country and the United States haven't exactly been on the best of terms. In fact, both governments have been openly hostile toward each other. One man who clearly represents all that it bad about the Iranian situation is none other than the Iron Sheik. Claiming to hail from the capital city of Teheran, the Sheik has never made any secret of his dislike for Americans and their ways, and has demonstrated his hate both by words and by his actions inside the wrestling ring. Talking with this man can be a chore. It can also be a study in frustration, as we are about to demonstrate.

WE: First of all, Sheik, we know all about your anti-American sentiments, so we'd like to keep this conversation on the subject of wrestling, if you would.

IS: Let me tell you something, Mister American wrestling reporter. I'm doing you a favor by allowing you to interview me, so just remember that!

WE: Fair enough. Now, you recently returned to the National Wrestling Alliance after a lengthy absence. Just exactly why did you come back to the NWA?

IS: To get a chance to beat up on the so-called champion, Ricky Steamboat. I have always had respect for Ric Flair, even though he is American wrestler. He was good champion, and I do not know how someone like Steamboat could beat him. But it really does not matter who is NWA champion, the Iron Sheik can defeat them. With Steamboat having the belt, it just



The Sheik chokes the life out of his opponent.

makes it easier for me.

WE: Well, you certainly have the record to justify a title shot. You've been a champion in both the amateur and professional ranks, and are recognized as a superb technician in the ring. However, some have said that age is catching up with you.

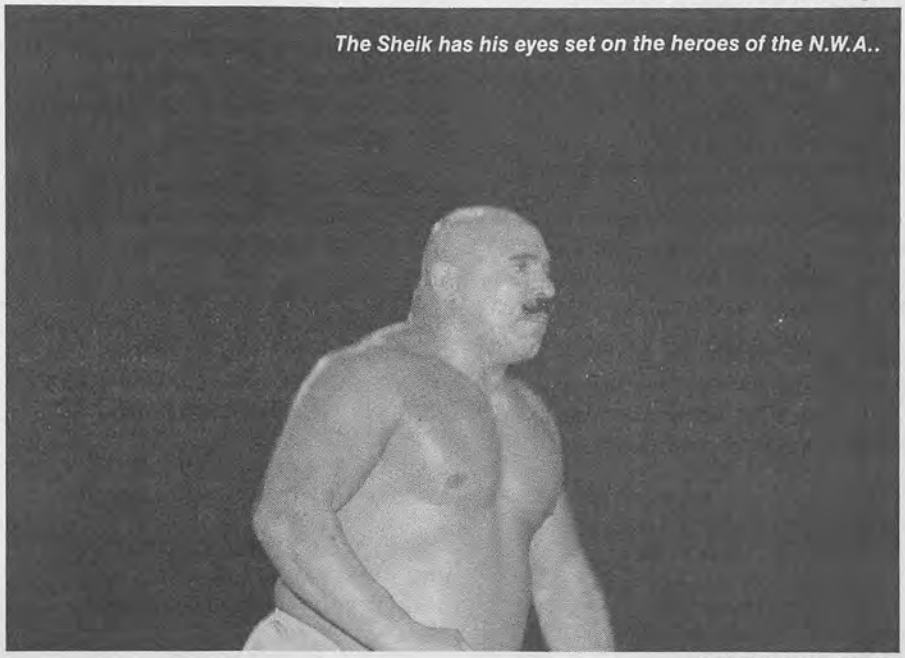
IS: Listen, you idiot. It should be clear to everyone by now that Iranian athletes are superior to American bums. Wrestlers from my country have to train constantly, and are always improving. You Americans have it soft. Everything is handed to you. With age comes wisdom and experience. A smart man will use this knowledge to defeat younger opponents. If stupid Americans believe that I am too old, just tell them to ask my opponents.

WE: A few years ago, you practically dominated the World Wrestling Federation, winning both the world titles at different times.

IS: If you look in your so-called record book, you will see that I have dominated anywhere I have wrestled. I easily defeated American scum Bob Backlund in 1983 to become world champion. After that title was stolen from me, I got together with my good friend Nikolai Volkoff, and it was not long before we were world tag team champions. I see no reason why things should be any different in the NWA.

WE: I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't ask you about some of the trouble you've had outside the ring. You have been accused of assaulting fans, a gas station attendant, and were also arrested for possession of illegal drugs...

IS: First of all, what I do is no one's business! All of those things



The Sheik has his eyes set on the heroes of the N.W.A..

Will the Sheik see championship gold once again?

were merely conspiracies to get me out of the U.S.A. No one was able to beat me in the ring, so they plotted all of these tricks to try to discredit me. It was all a set up, and that's all I have to say about it.

WE: I know that you have little respect for American wrestlers, but there must be at least a few that you consider respectable.

IS: As I said earlier, Ric Flair is probably best American wrestler. There might be a few others who deserve mention, but not many.

WE: Let's talk for a minute about the change in attitude of one of your old friends, Ivan Koloff.

IS: I have not yet talked with Ivan, so I don't know what is going on. Some tell me that he is now being cheered by the fans, but I do not believe it! No one who has been as loyal to his country would ever become a defector.

WE: There happens to be another of your good friends in the NWA, Abdullah the Butcher.

IS: Abdullah the Butcher is a tough man, just like Iron Sheik. He is real man, not like American wimps. He and I have spilled other men's blood all over the world. Mr. Gary Hart has talked with me a little, so U.S.A may see the Sheik and the Butcher together again.

WE: That's something to think about. Have you talked with any other managers besides Gary Hart?

IS: That is none of your concern. Whatever I decide to do will be revealed when the time is right. Not before.

WE: Besides the world title, do you have your sights set on any of the other titles in the NWA?

IS: Mr. Lex Luger, the U.S.A champion, is just like Steamboat, just bigger. Mr. Luger has very small brain to go with his big body. Lex Luger looks good, but his wrestling abilities do not match his looks. He is typical American wrestler, long on muscle and looks, but short on intelligence. He would be no problem for superior Iranian athlete.

WE: I'm quite sure a lot of people would argue that point. Anyway, what about the TV champion, Mike Rotundo?

IS: Mr. Mike Rotundo has something that most other American wrestlers do not: Kevin Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan has a most devious mind, and I like that. He does not think like an American. His mind works in a different way, and that is why he and his men enjoy much success. He has studied the ways of other people, and he has tremendous advantage because of that.

WE: There's a newcomer to the NWA who has made it clear that he doesn't care for you or your attitude, Ranger Ross. He must represent everything that you hate.

IS: This Ranger Ross is nothing but a young punk! He thinks because he was in American army which beat up on some small countries, that he can be big shot. Just as the U.S.A army would have no chance against army of Iran. Ranger Ross will have no chance against Iron Sheik.

WE: Sheik, if you so dislike our way of life, what is your motivation for staying in this country?

IS: Look, Mr. Reporter, everyone in my country has a duty. My duty is to put your American wrestlers in their place, which I have done very well. When my government decides to call me back, I go. Until then, I will continue to punish and humiliate those who are inferior.

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Photos by Del Rector

Terry Garvin signs an autograph for Sgt Noah Falin.

Little Todd Decker, from Jonesborough, Tennessee and seven-year old Sgt. Noah Falin, from Weber City, Virginia were only two of the 'Dreams Work' children that were able to attend a wrestling match fund-raiser which was presented by the UWA-Wrestling. All proceeds went to 'Dreams Work,' which is a non-profit organization based in Kingsport, Tennessee who fulfills the dreams of 'terminally-ill' children and those with 'life-threatening' illnesses. 'Dreams Work' depends solely on individual contributions, the many long hard hours of the volunteers, contributions from the local businesses and the community support.

When the idea for this fund-raiser was presented to Bud Adams, the president of UWA-Wrestling, he began asking the wrestlers if they would like to participate and the response was tremendous. Bud Adams, in conjunction with Joe Herron, Billie Jessee, Abby Booher and other volunteers, began lining up these wrestlers for this fund-raiser. On Saturday, March 11, 1989, the match was held at Sullivan North High School at 8:00 P.M. Everyone had a great

Sgt Noah Palin and Joey Cazana.

Thad Clark and Joey Cazana go at it.

time especially Todd and Noah when they got to meet all the wrestlers.

The UWA Wrestling appears in Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and parts of South Carolina. We just couldn't have asked for a nicer and more receptive group of wrestlers to work with. Barbie Stephens, the president of 'Dreams Work' and all of us here, want to thank each and every one of the wrestlers who came out and gave of their time and talent for this great cause. They really are a 'great' group of guys! Here is a list of the wrestlers that participated in the matches to 'help a dying child's dream come true.' Please forgive me if my memory fails me on this listing and should fail to list someone. Johnny Meadows, Bo Elliott, Billy Cody, Jr., Ronnie Bledsoe, Terry Garvin, The Midgets-Butch Cassidy and The Little Mauler, Tony Peters, Don Wright, Keith Hart, Joey Cazana, Tony Page, Jeff Tankersley, Hoot Gibson, Frankie Kegley, The Wild Samoans—#1-#2 with manager L.E. Ward, The World Famous Spoilers #1-#2 managed by Izzy Slapawitz, Dede Rivers, The Billion Dollar Baby, Thad Clark U.S. Commando, John Studd with Mad Jack. Rick Conners was also scheduled to appear but could not make it because of sickness. Referee was Garner Lane and the ring announcer was Joe Herron, both from Kingsport, Tennessee.

We would also like to thank other people in the community who donated things to make this event a success such as Sullivan North High School for the use of the gym, the Pepsi-Cola Company for donating the drinks and also the Sullivan County Booster Club for operating the concession stand and also everyone that came out to support 'Dreams Work.'

'Thank you,' UWA, from all of us here at 'Dreams Work.'

The Spoilers certainly made Sgt Noah's day.

PHANTOM of the ring

Now that all that Wrestlemania stuff is long over, we can now look forward to all the "Summer Slam" drivel!! I've heard from a reliable source that the W.W.F. will not have a 'Royal Rumble' this year. That's good news!.....Current news.....**Lance Russell** is super as the N.W.A.'s newest play by play man. In my opinion he's even better than **Tony Schiavone** who has been recruited by the W.W.F. Hats off to Lance!!.....**Ex-Top Gun, John Paul,** is back wrestling for the C.W.A. in the South. He has formed **The Mason-Dixon Connection** with **Tracy Smothers**, formerly of the **Southern Boys**..... ...By the way, the Cajun Clash is still on my mind. That match between **Flair** and **Steamboat** was one of the best, possibly as great as their classic match in the Meadowlands Arena some years back. **Terry Funk** was great doing commentary. I hope he decides to do more play by play work. Look out for **Terry's** new movie, "Roadhouse" with **Patrick Swayze** and **Sam Elliot** to be out soon..... People are still buzzing about the clothesline that **Akeem** gave to **Sean Michaels** at Wrestlemania. He almost took his head off! That was the best part of the whole show.....**Hulk Hogan's** movie, 'No Holds Barred' was simply horrible. What a disgrace! The only person in the whole film that I enjoyed was **Stan Hansen**. Even though **Hansen** appeared in **Hogan's** movie there is no outlook for him to return to W.W.F. rings. It appears **Stan** is concentrating on wrestling in Japan where he is a national hero! (Article this issue!!) .....**Barry Windham** was out for action for a while, due to the fact that he needed surgery done on his hand. The reasons at this time are being kept confidential... .....Across the Pacific, Japanese lady sensation, **Chigusa Nagayo** retired at the age of 24. **Hagayo**, who will go down as the greatest female wrestler in Japanese wrestling history, wrestled her final match at the newly built Yokoyama Arena against **Lioness Asuka** with whom **Chigusa** teamed with to form the **Crush Girls**.....**Don Muraco** changed his ways in Calgary, Alberta Canada recently. The North American champ, challenged **Davey Boy Smith**. **Davey Boy** wrestled **Muraco** in a brutal contest. At one point **Davey Boy** actually press slammed **Muraco** over his head! After the contest both **Muraco** and former N.W.A. champ **Harley Race** double teamed **Davey Boy**.....The **Midnight Express** and **Jim Cornette** are history with the N.W.A. It's a shame because I felt that the **Midnight-Swat Team** matches were great!!

It was so exciting to see the former greats together at the N.W.A.'s Cajun Clash. **Thesz**, **O'Connor**, **Rogers**, **Kiniski**, **Muchnick**, and the **Funks**; what more could you ask for?..... The U.A.W.F. has announced it's annual fan convention this year slated for Chicago. For more info write to U.A.W.F., P.O. BOX 215, Galesburg, IL.....**Dusty Rhodes'** promotion in Florida is really doing great. With some new talent circulating the promotion is really taking off.....**Ricky Steamboat** defended his N.W.A. World Title in Japan against **Tiger Mask** in front of 14,500 people at Tokyo's Budokan Hall.....The **Dynamite Kid** is out of action due to a shoulder injury. At press time, it appears that **Dynamite** has actually retired!! He has announced that **Chris Benoit** of Calgary Stampede fame will take his place along side **Davey Boy Smith**..... **Scotty the Body** is really causing some havoc in the Northwest. **Scotty has caused a feud between the Southern Rockers, Steve Doll** and **Scott Peterson**. **Scotty** also doubles as a color commentator.....Fabulous **Jackie Fulton** has made his debut recently. Jackie is the younger brother of 'Fantastic' **Bobby Fulton**.....A few plugs— Cee-Dee Productions is marketing many new items in the wrestling world, namely, a limited edition color 8x10 photo authentically signed and numberedy by the legendary **Lou Thesz**. This terrific collector's item sells for $12.95 each. Also on the market is a video tape featuring the **British Bulldogs** vs. **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** held in Kansas City, never seen on U.S. television. The tape is forty minutes in length and features commentary by both **Luscious Johnny Valiant** and former N.W.A. president **Bob Giegel**. This tape sells for $24.95 plus $2 P&H for each tape ordered. All orders for both items are currently being taken by Cee-Dee Productions, P.O. BOX 3626, Union, N.J. 07083.....

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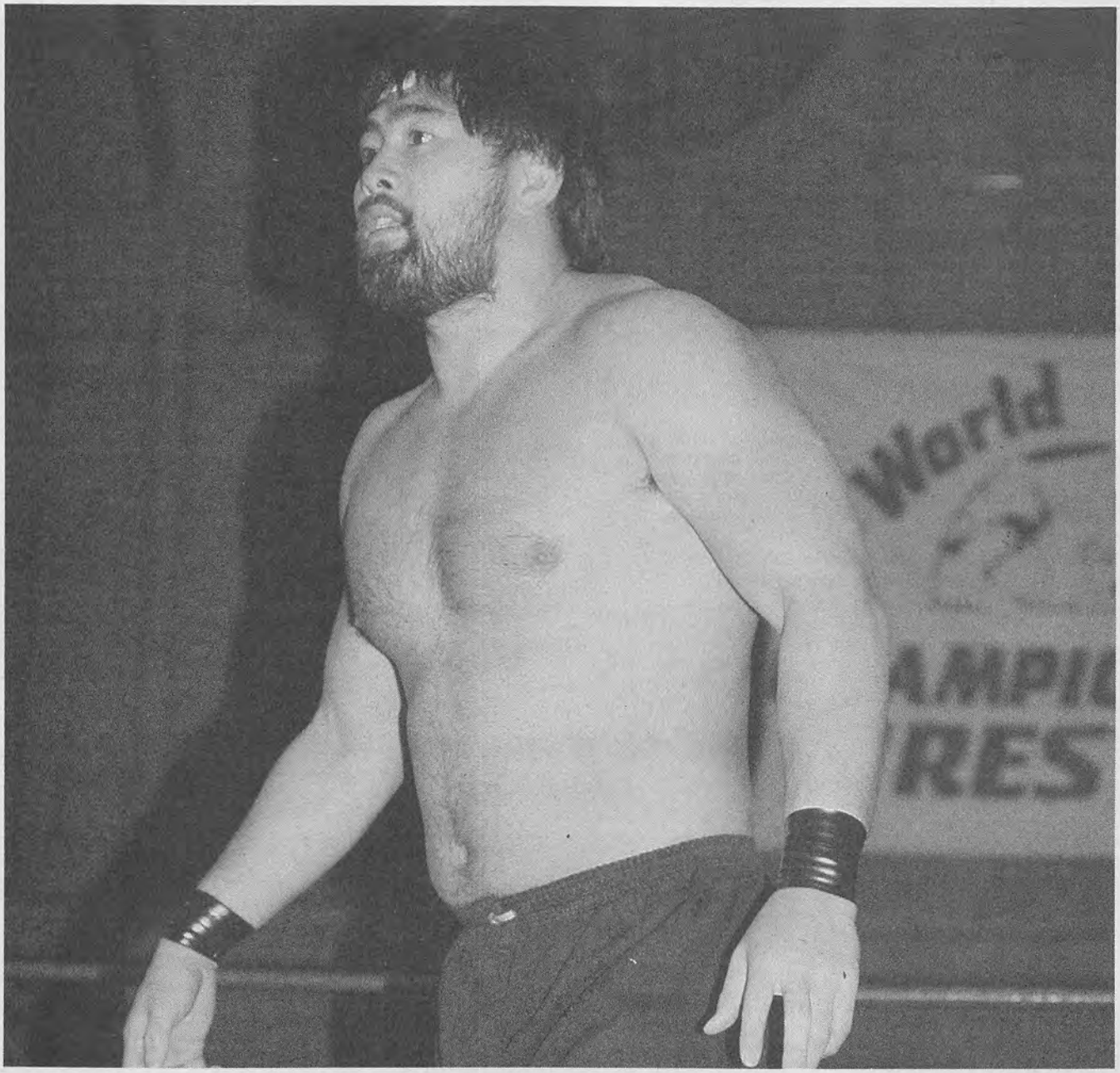
THE GREAT MOTA



The Great Mota.

GARY HART'S SECRET WEAPON

by Don Liable Photos by Steve Beyer

So what's in a name? In the world of professional wrestling it's as vital to an athlete as the number of holds he can successfully execute. Gary Hart, one of the most respected managers of the game in America, has come up with another gem. Now, the latest protege and according to Hart the most dangerous of all his finds, past and present, has landed in NWA rings. The Great Mota is on a mission to not only conquer the "all-american" fan favorites but to return to his home land with the world title belt around his waist.

"He's a quick learner, don't take any of his threats lightly. I can't think of any promises he has made and hasn't followed through on. The Great Mota has handled himself quite well against the competition put in the ring with him. Steve Casey who outweighs him by twenty pounds and is three inches taller couldn't get any offense going in his last match with Mota. I call him a skillful technician. It seems he approaches every match as if it was going to be his last, the intensity level at times is unbelievable," Barry Windham, a close friend of Gary Hart's, said while

awaiting his match with Rick Steiner in Cleveland, Ohio.

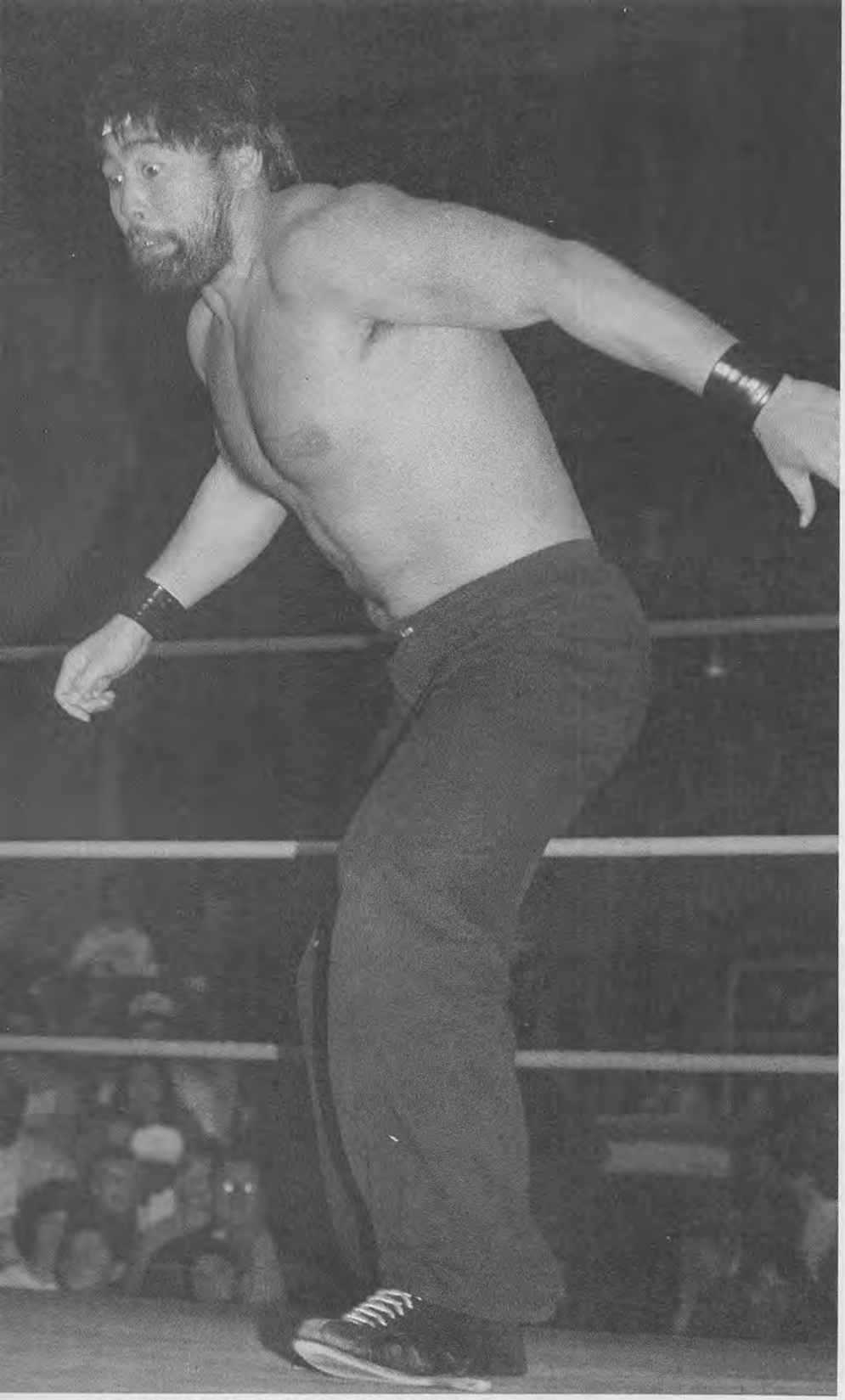
Before using the label The Great Mota, many mat fans will recall him seeing competition in Florida and for World Class Championship Wrestling in Texas under the billings The Super Black Ninja and Keiji Muto. Before linking up with his current coach, Mota had other veterans in the sport show him the finer points of how to get the best advantage over opponents.

In the Orient, Giant Baba trained him. The legendary big man in Japan took a personal interest in seeing to his learning and fundamentals and finishing holds that would one day put him in a class of his own. Mota's father, himself a world renowned athlete of the squared circle and Baba have been best of friends for decades. The Great Kabuki who has been a big success story not only in the ring but with the box-office as well has toured in Mexico, South Africa, Canada, West Germany and in the United States. A few years back, while under the management of Gary Hart in the WCCW, before departing back to Japan, Kabuki made arrangements for his only son to get the opportunity to give the sport his best efforts, away from media pressure he would have surely confronted in Japan.

Gary Hart was delighted to further train and cultivate the up and coming superstar. The NWA was put on hold as plans for matches in the Southwest were first on the agenda. Kerry and Kevin Von Erich were quite impressed with his early performances and were amazed at how much his mannerisms resembled his father's actions. "The first time I saw Mota set up an opponent for his finisher, the moonsault press, let me tell you I was just glad that it wasn't me going down hard onto the mat. But what really caught my attention was what he did before the pin. Like his father, Mota blew out a green mist from his mouth into the face of Perry "Action" Jackson. That was the end. Not only couldn't Jackson get up but he couldn't see either," Kevin Von Erich stated.

During a battle in Shreveport, Louisiana with Mexico's Manuel Villalobos, Mota's thrust kick to his challenger's mid-section knocked the wind right out of him. The ringside physician was summoned immediately by Referee Bronko Lubich after the pin was official. At first it was thought the impact of the driving kick caused internal injuries. Fortunately for the popular Villalobos, an overnight stay in the hospital for observation was all that was required. At times it appears neither Hart or Mota fully realize just how devastating they can be.

Formerly known as the Super Black Ninja a.k.a. Keiji Muto.



One of the finest technical wrestlers in the world.

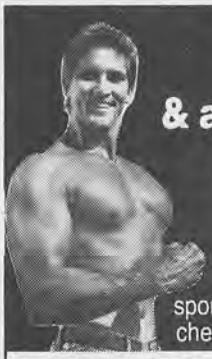
With negotiations already under way to land The Great Mota a shot at the NWA world heavyweight champion, "the icing on the cake" to secure that match would be for him to score impressive victories over established main eventers. Sting, Stan Lane and Mike Rotunda are the top three competitors he knows that he must defeat in order to gain a chance at the world champ. Patience, confidence and commitment to being the best are his greatest strengths. Thus far while among the NWA ranks the only blemish, as some call it, on The Great Mota's record is a thirty minute draw to which he and "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert battled. Fans in North Carolina that witnessed the exchange of talent among the two are still talking about it.

"I thought for sure Eddie had Mota on his back and one with on at least three occasions but he always found a way to kick out. After connecting on three consecutive dropkicks and catching him with a flying head scissors Eddie was in total command, well that's what I thought. I'll tell you one thing, with that match alone, it was worth the price of my ticket. We all got to see a great wrestling match. Hopefully the promoters will be able to sign them back for a rematch in Greensboro, referee veteran Teddy Long said.

The Iron Sheik and Butch Reed have had their representatives approach Hart about the possibility of teaming up with The Great Mota and give a go at the tag titles. With the NWA and the United States belts as their incentives one or both of them may soon become property of Mota. Hart keeps all options open for his top protege. Another Japanese standout wrestler Tenryu is also appearing under the NWA banner. No strangers to each other, although they haven't met professionally in the ring yet, during their amateur days Mota came up on the short end of the stick in their only encounter and that was several years ago. Call it personal pride, revenge or just plain jealousy, he would enjoy nothing more if a title belt never found its way around his waist, than to have a no time limit, no disqualification match with Tenryu. The defeat is not forgotten. It has been haunting Mota for years.

If the two sides do come to an agreement and the match does take place, Giant Baba has already made it clear that he will remain neutral in his involvement. Both wrestlers are looked upon by him as sons and taking the side of only one would cause ill will.

The Great Mota is the talk of the NWA. Not because of a clever press agent. Pure talent has allowed him to rise up the ladder of success. Mysterious, yes. Artificial and a product of gimmickry, no way. Beware Ricky Steamboat. Watch your back Junk Yard Dog. Keep an eye out for him Michael Hayes. The Great Mota has plans for you and the rest of the greats of the NWA.



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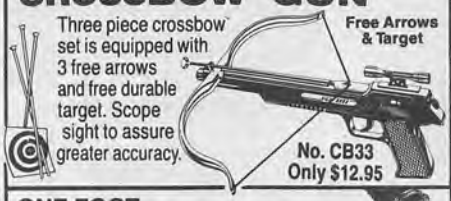

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JAN. '86

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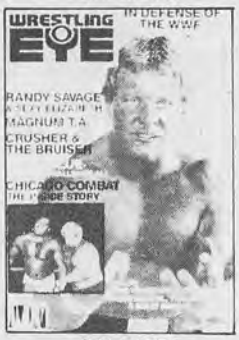
MAY '86



JUNE '86

JULY '86

AUG. '86

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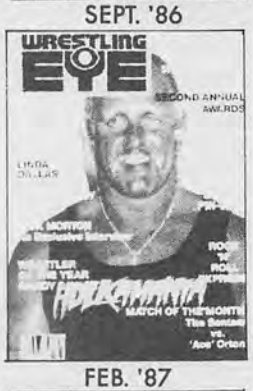
DEC. '86

JAN. '87



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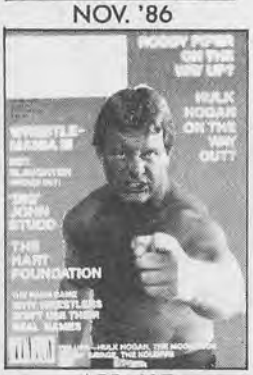

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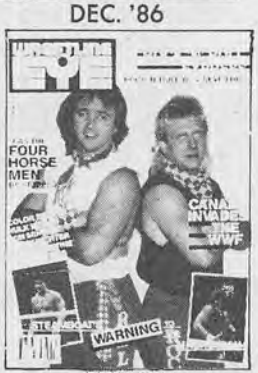

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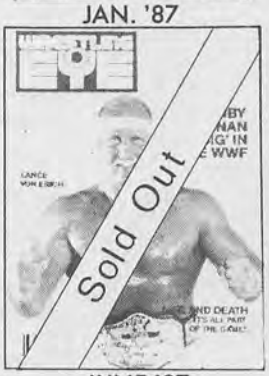

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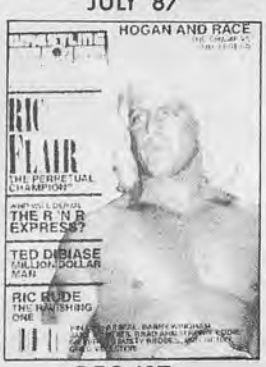

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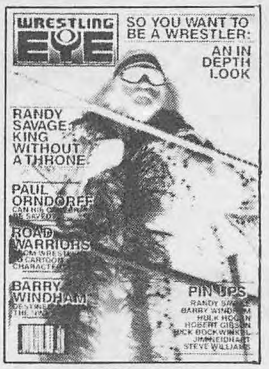
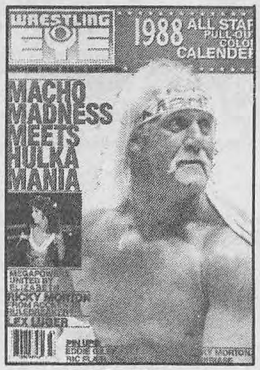


JAN. '88

FEB. '88



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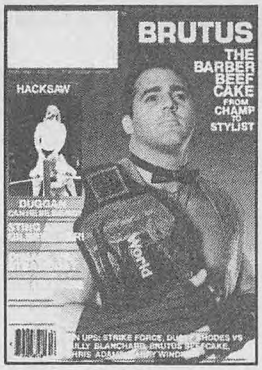

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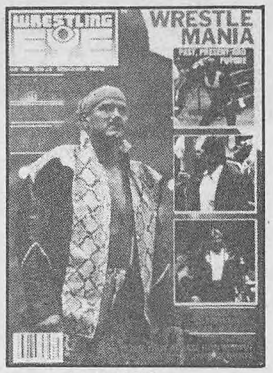

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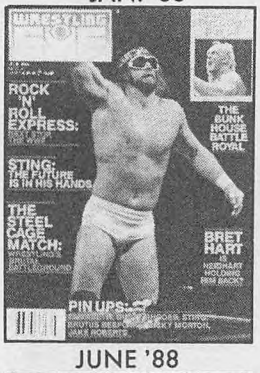

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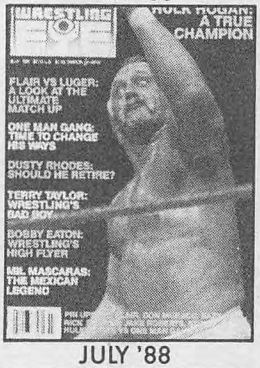

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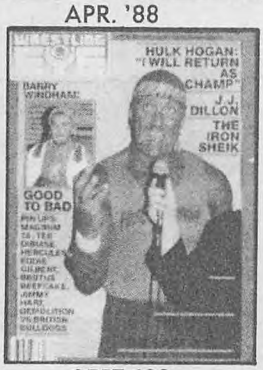

SEPT. '88

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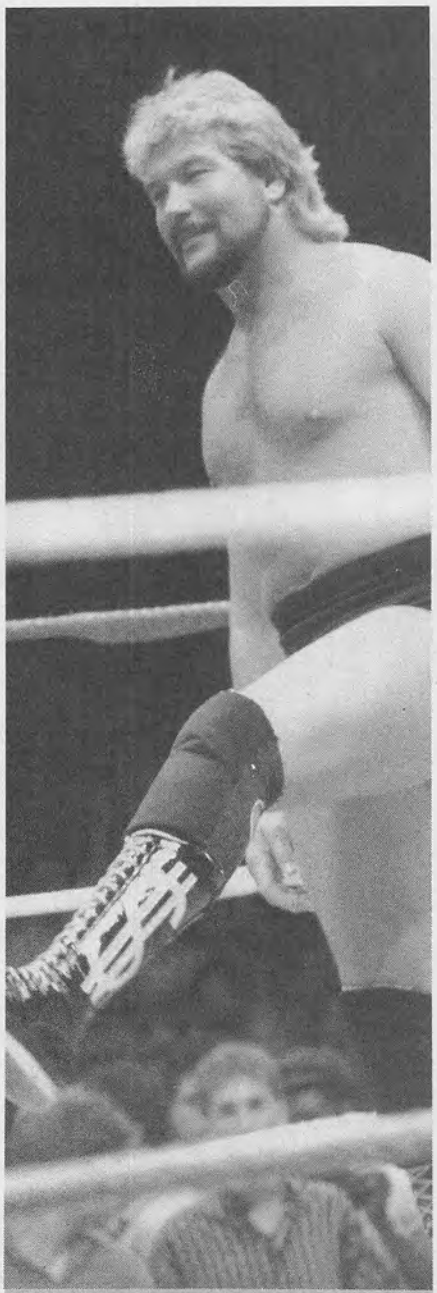
4. Ted DiBiase
5. Ultimate Warrior
6. Curt Hennig
7. Brutus Beefcake
8. Bret Hart
9. Akeem
10. Jake Roberts
11. Bad News Brown
12. Ronnie Garvin
13. Terry Taylor
14. The Blue Blazer
15. Hercules

N.W.A.
CHAMP—RICKY STEAMBOAT

1. Ric Flair
2. Barry Windham
3. Lex Luger
4. Sting
5. Rick Steiner
6. Michael Hayes
7. The Great Mota
8. Iron Sheik
9. Kevin Sullivan
10. Mike Rotunda
11. Dick Murdoch
12. Steve Williams
13. Eddie Gilbert
14. Dan Spivey
15. Ron Simmons

N.W.F.

1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. Jules Strongbow
3. Larry Winters
4. David Schultz
5. Cousin Luke
6. Silo Sam
7. Russian Assassin
8. Col. DeBeers
9. Mr. Anthony
10. Eddie Mirrenda



Ted DiBiase is the #4 in the WWF.

N.C.W.

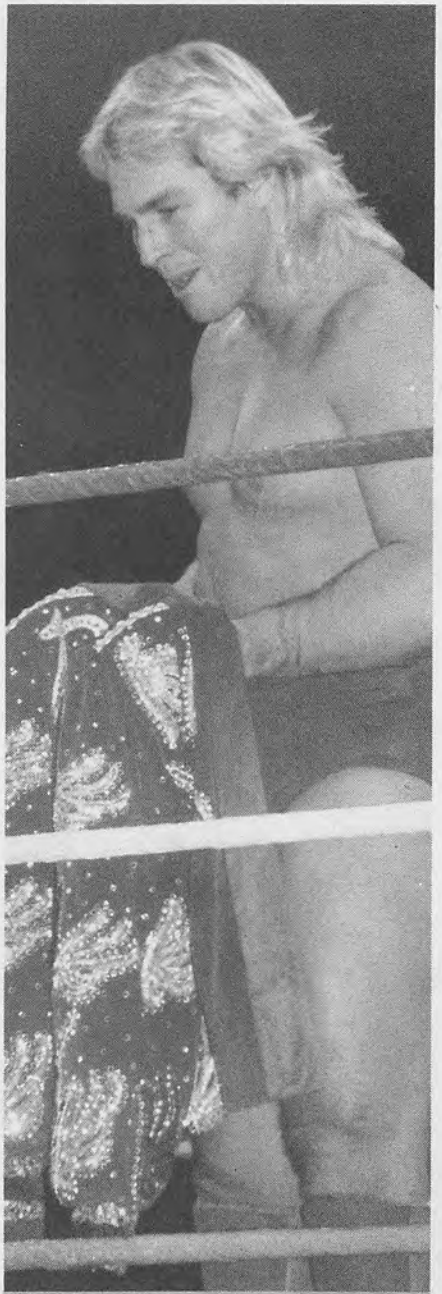
1. Johnny Rodz
2. Abdullah the Butcher
3. Ted Arcidi
4. Mondo Kleen
5. Cousin Luke
6. Johnny V.
7. Toru Tanaka
8. Diesel Don
9. Larry Sharpe
10. The Heartthrob

The #7 man in the NCW is Toru Tanaka.

U.S.W.A.

1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. Rocky Johnson
3. Afu the Wild Samoan
4. The Bruiser
5. Don Kent
6. Cheetah Kid
7. Dr. Jerry Graham
8. Larry Winters
9. The Russian Assassin
10. Tom Brandi

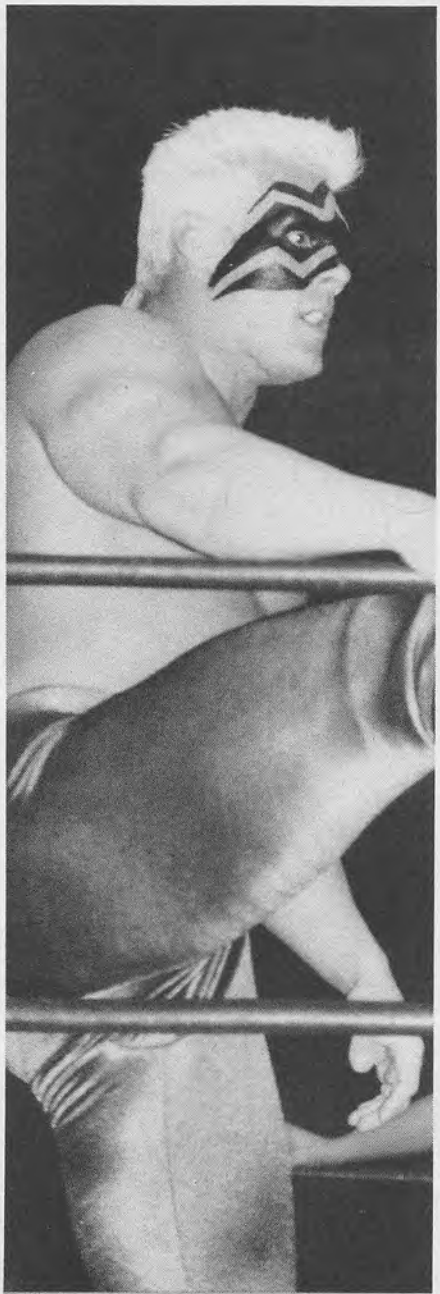
OFFICIAL RATINGS



Terry Taylor #12 wrestler in the world.

A.W.A.

1. Larry Zbyszko
2. Don Muraco
3. Jerry Lawler
4. Wahoo McDaniel
5. Greg Gagne
6. Pat Tanaka
7. Akio Sato
8. Col. DeBeers
9. Mondo Guerrero
10. Paul Diamond



Sting rates #4 in the NWA.

WORLD CLASS

1. Kerry Von Erich
2. Brickhouse Brown
3. Cactus Jack Manson
4. Eric Embry
5. Super Black Ninja
6. Kevin Von Erich
7. Brian Adias
8. Buddy Roberts
9. Gary Young
10. Jeff Jarrett

WORLD'S WOMEN'S RATINGS

1. Wendi Richter
2. Misty Blue
3. Madusa Miceli
4. Heidi Lee Morgan
5. Debbie Combs
6. The Black Venus
7. Sensational Sherri
8. Candi Divine
9. Sue Sexton
10. Linda Dallas

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9. Badd Company
10. British Bulldogs
11. The Fantastics
12. Hart Foundation
13. The Samoan Swat Team
14. The Rougeaus
15. The Guerrero Brothers

TOP 15 (rated by wrestling ability)

1. Ric Flair
2. Barry Windham
3. Sting
4. Curt Hennig
5. Ted DiBiase
6. The Blue Blazer
7. Randy Savage
8. Bret Hart
9. Ronnie Garvin
10. Arn Anderson
11. Pat Tanaka
12. Terry Taylor
13. Jake Roberts
14. Mondo Guerrero
15. Davey Boy Smith

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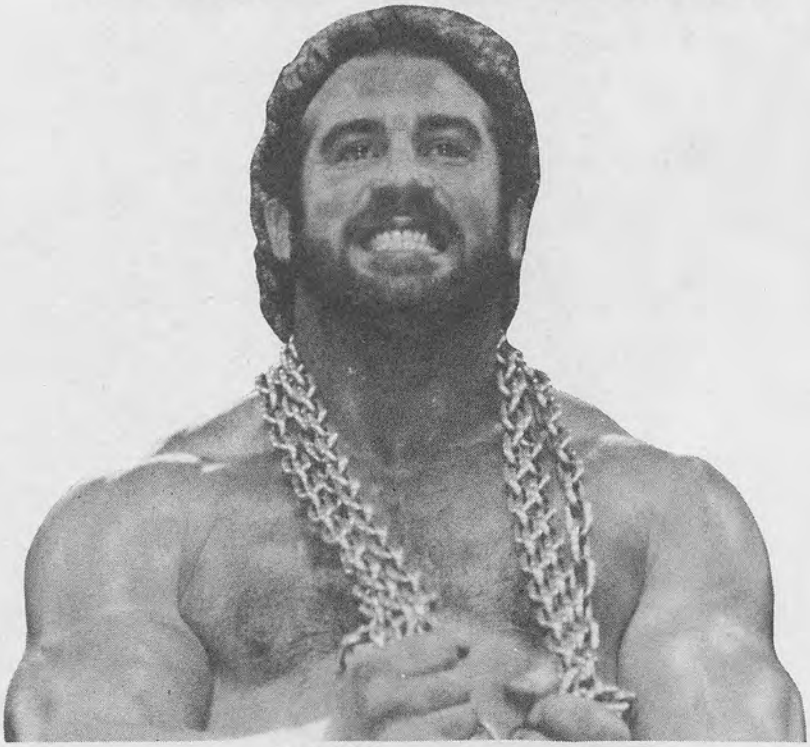

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WRESTLING EYE

SEND ALL LETTERS TO: WRESTLING EYE JEMS INC. P.O. BOX 138 MARLBORO, N.J. 07746 ATT: EDITOR

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

The inevitable has happened. The World Wrestling Federation has declared their show to be fake. The WWF did this in order to escape regulation costs in New Jersey, the same place where WRESTLEMANIA V was held. The WWF is a disgrace to wrestling as a sport and should be banned from the fan's hearts forever.

Professional wrestling is a real sport and should not be condemned due to the way someone presents it. It was predicted before that the silliness and slapstick would hurt the sport. Now, that seems to be the case.

Basketball is a good example of differences in sports. On one hand, you have the Harlem Globetrotters and they are an act with exceptionally good talent. On the other hand, there are teams like the Lakers who compete and earn their wins as athletes not actors.

Well, the same holds true for wrestling. Vince McMahon said it himself, "the WWF is the Walt Disney of wrestling!" He was telling us the truth.

I would like to tip my hat to Capt. Lou Albano, the NWA, the AWA and any other federation who presents pro wrestling as a sport. I thought Lou Albano wrestled valiantly with the media and that egg-headed senator on NIGHTLINE.

The WWF will certainly be going downhill. Therefore, all other federations must clean up the sport by:

1) Getting referees who have complete control of the match, or have two refs, one in the ring and one at ringside.

2) The sport is not sold on blood anymore. Actually, it's a big turnoff with the AIDS epidemic now.

3) There should be a new weight division (limit 189 lbs).

I would like to take the time to thank WRESTLING EYE for telling it like it is.

Richard Goodwin
Phila, Pa

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

In regards to the article in your April '89 issue about Sean Michaels, there were several remarks which I strongly disagreed with. First, the article said Sean has all the looks and talent to go places. Well, Marty Jannetty isn't any stick in the mud either. He's an attractive, talented, handsome, young athlete by anyone's standards. While in the Central States area, he held every major title there. In Oct '84 Marty held the Central States Heavyweight title, the Central States T.V. title and was half of the Central States Tag Team champions along with Bob Brown. By holding all these titles, this says something about the man. However to keep adding to his list of accomplishments, in March '85, Marty had a match with then World Champ Ric Flair and did a wonderful job in the ring against him. All this says something about the man, his record certainly speaks for itself.

In addition, Marty Jannetty was in the AWA a long time before Sean ever came and he won may matches as a single wrestler. Don't get me wrong, I think they make a wonderful tag team and I'd hate to see them break up but if they ever did, I don't think anyone would be surprised at just how good Marty Jannetty really is. I feel the sky is the limit for him in any Alliance that was lucky enough to get him and I feel Marty could win any title he wanted whether it be single or tag team.

Grace Gardner
Great Bend, Ks

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I'm writing this letter to you because I consider WRESTLING EYE to be one of the best publications today! That is why I was surprised when Sherri Martel was not included in your ratings last month. I have been following women's wrestling for four decades and feel that not only does Ms Martel belong in the same league as Mildred Burke, Moolah and June Byers but is the greatest all around female wrestler of all time.

The past few months the GLOW-type bikini clad girls with little or no talent like Brandi Mae and Madusa Miceli have been getting recognition for all the "wrong" reasons and have been giving this great sport a black eye! So please, save the dignity of our sport and give Ms Martel, a truly gifted lady who is both revered and feared by her peers, the ranking she deserves.

Carol Panice
Chicago, Il

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I must say as a WWF wrestling fan I am disappointed, and the reason for this is that the tours to Australia have stopped. For a long time now the WWF has been bragging how the Land Down Under is their stronghold. If that's the case, then why aren't we treated better? The last tour to Sydney was late '86.

Point two, the WWF TV shows.

Since the change over from Championship and Prime Time to Superstars and Challenge I have been so far unimpressed. A couple of I-C title defenses, so what?! The small arenas had a fantastic atmosphere and the crowd was always screaming. On the new shows, the crowd looks bored. At least the crowd at the small arenas were excited, even if it was a mismatch (like all TV matches). The WWF is good but the smaller shows are better.

Joe Messineo
Sydney, Australia

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I can't see how anyone could be surprised by Randy Savage turning on Hulk Hogan. You could see it coming as soon as they shook hands. Savage is jealous of anyone who looks at Liz, so he must be raging inside. Hogan couldn't keep his eyes (or hands) off of her. Even back in the 89 Survivor Series, after the main event, Savage looked at Hogan with fire in his eyes when he "hugged" Elizabeth. I would have done the same thing. I'm not saying Hogan isn't a better wrestler than Savage, but their friendship was never meant to be.

Chris House
T. Bay, Newfoundland

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I went to see WRESTLEMANIA V and I couldn't believe what happened between Randy Savage and his manager Elizabeth.

When I watched Superstars of Wrestling they showed what happened backstage after WRESTLEMANIA between Elizabeth, Hogan, Savage and the so called "Sensational" Sherri. Well, they said that the following week we would meet Savage's new manager and although the WWF tries to be sly, we all know who it's going to be—Sensational Sherri!! Needless to say, I do still think Savage was and still is a great wrestler but I really do think he needs an attitude adjustment. Another pet peeve of mine is that the WWF thinks the fans are stupid when we're not! I think almost everyone knows Savage and Elizabeth are married.

I have one final message for the WWF. First of all, even though your federation is less than believable, you're still my favorite, but please don't take your fans for granted like you're doing. Otherwise a lot of people will switch over to the NWA where they can see less comical wrestling.

Ann McConnaughy
Scio, Ohio

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I can't even begin to tell you how relieved and happy I am that Hulk Hogan is once again the champion. There's nobody in wrestling today that can even come close to him as far as wrestling goes. I liked Randy Savage as champ but now I feel that the rightful owner of the belt has the title. Long live HULKAMANIA. I know that now I'll never miss a match because I love to see Hogan defeat all the wimps the WWF puts up against him.

Lila Freeney
Chicago, Il

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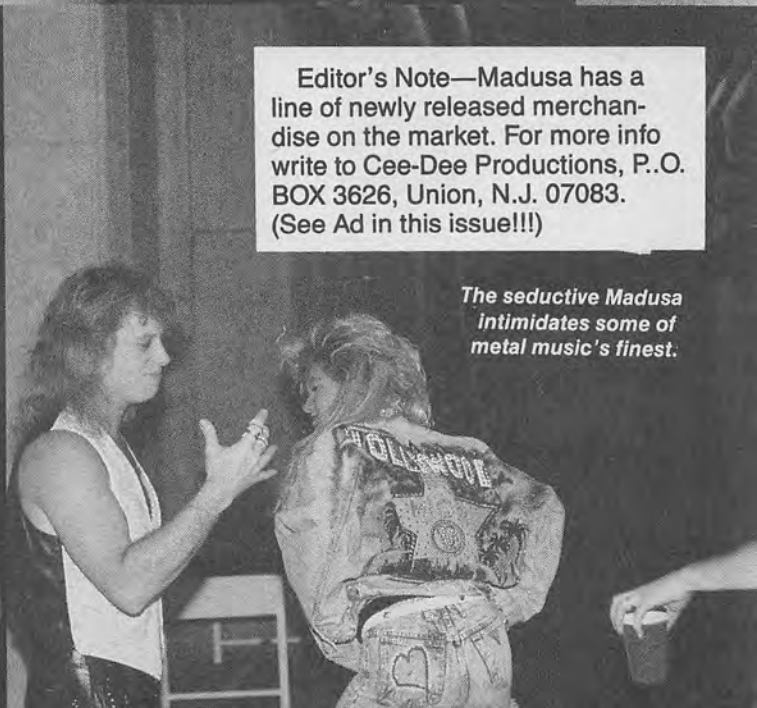

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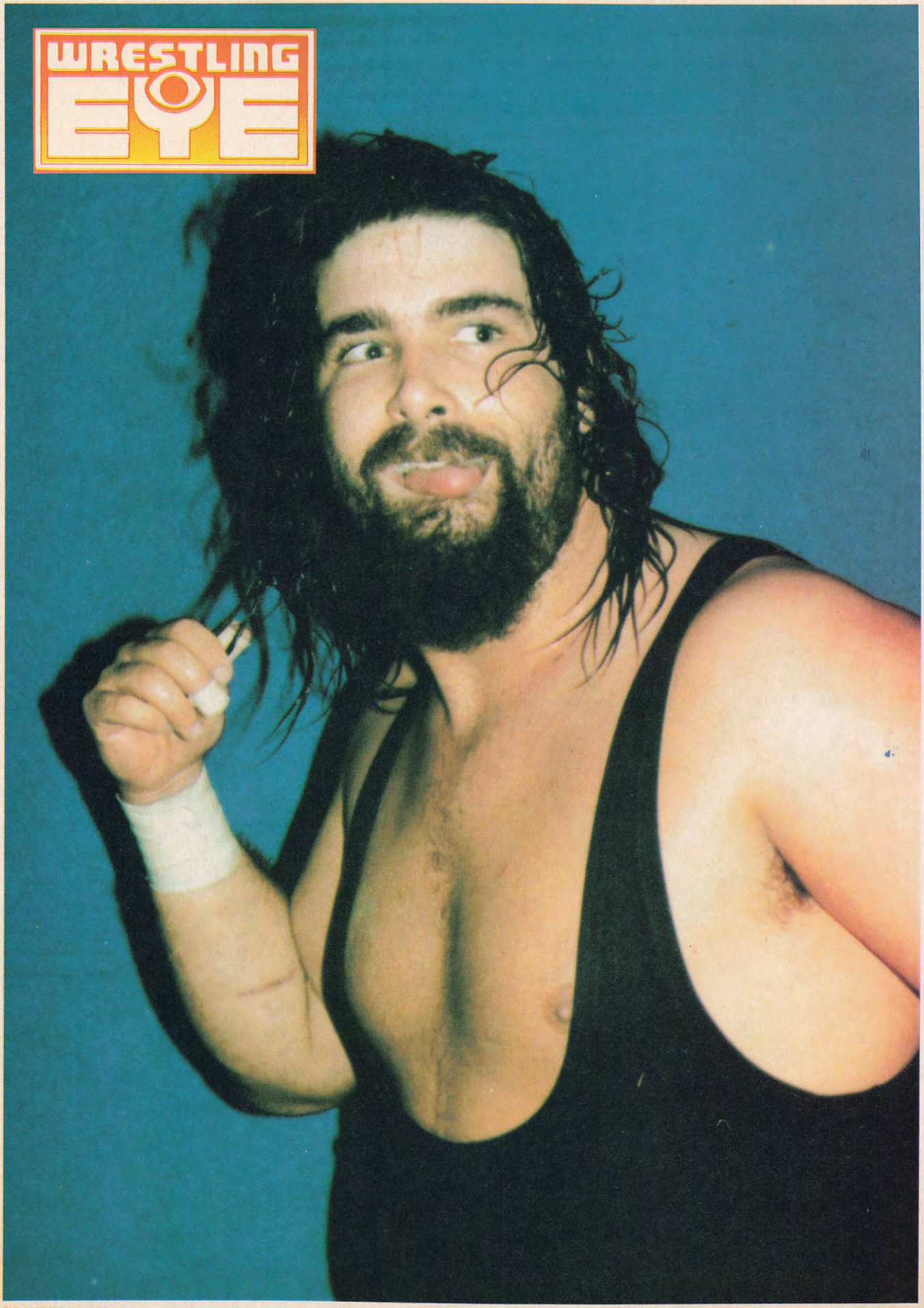

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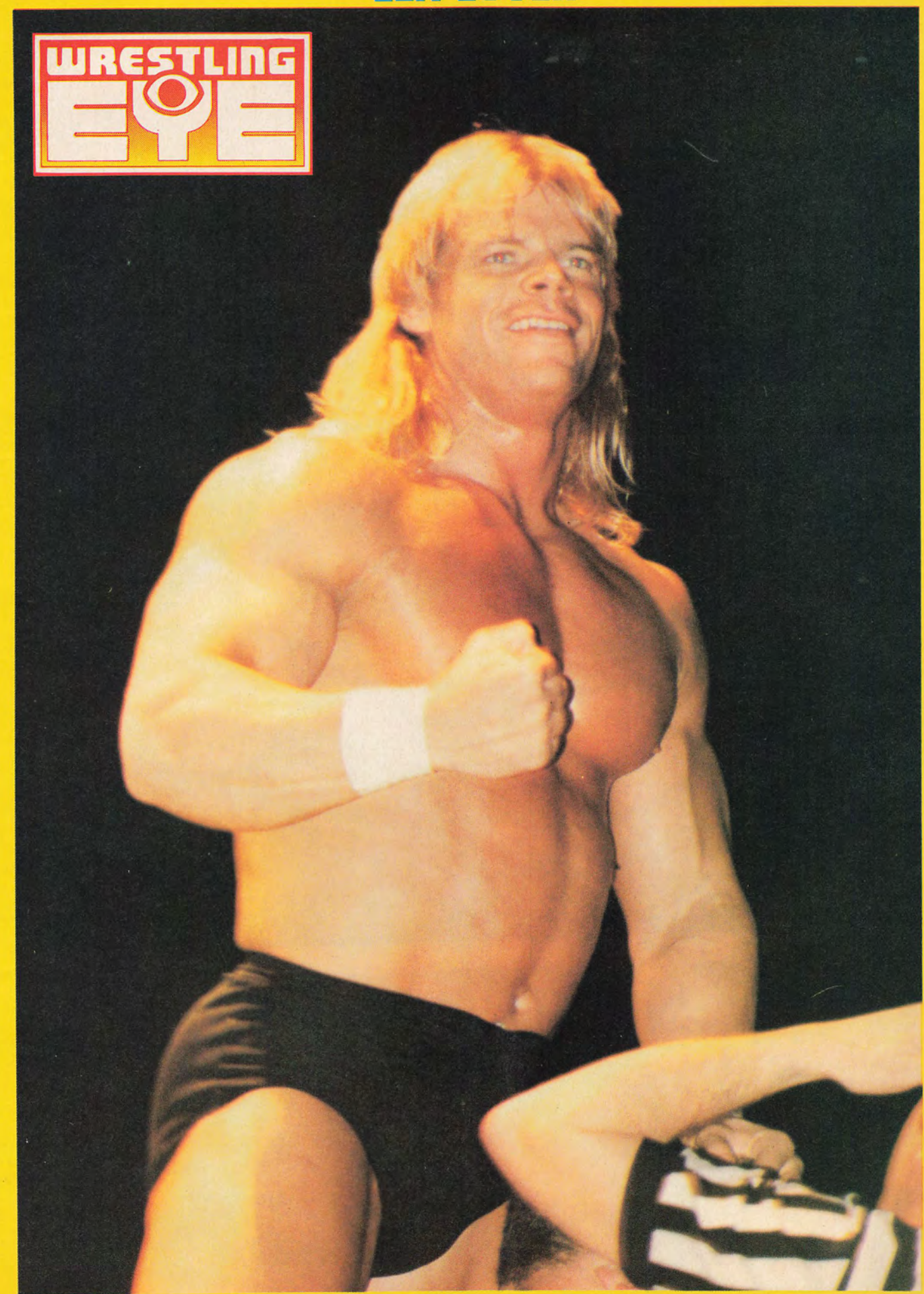

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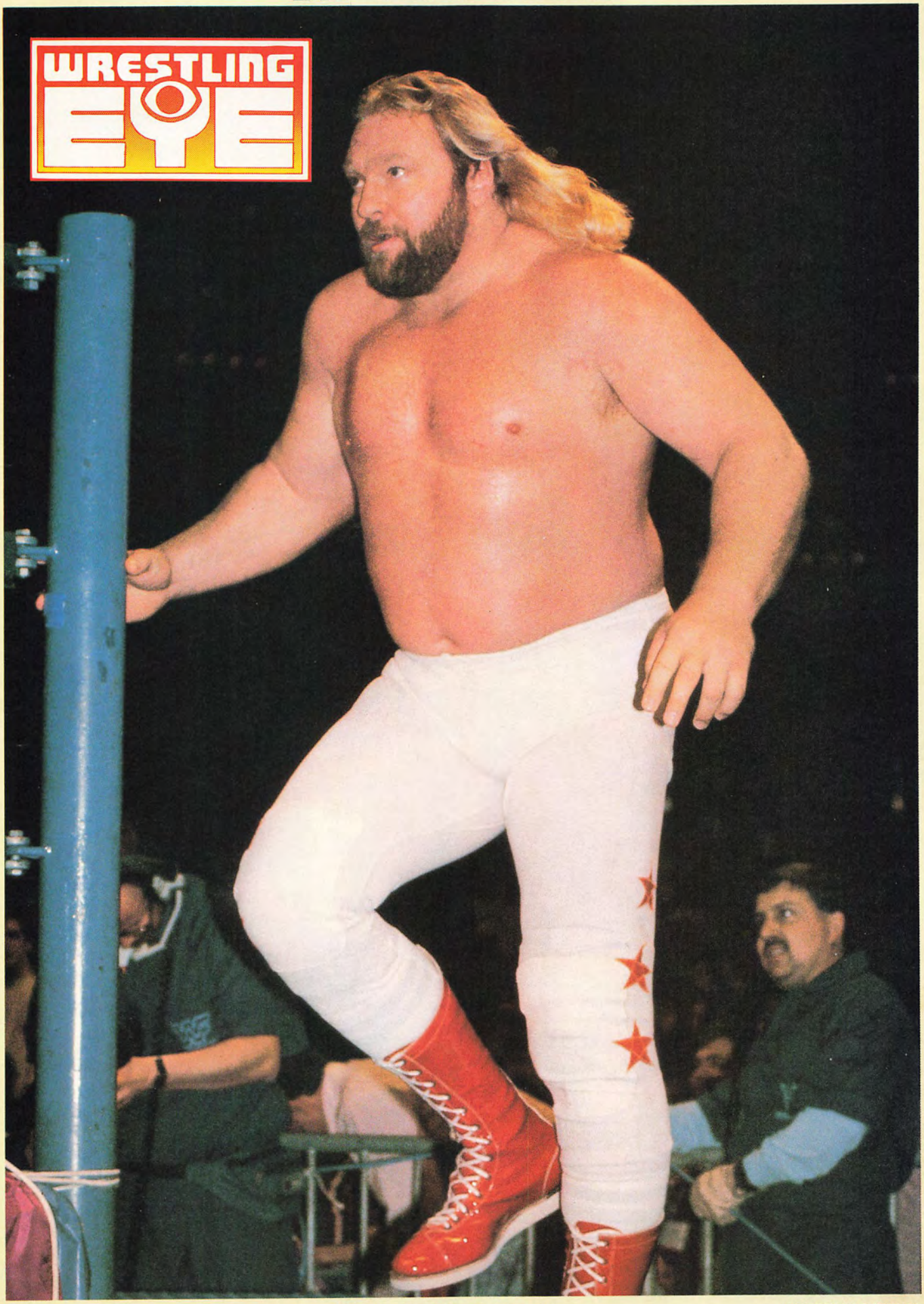

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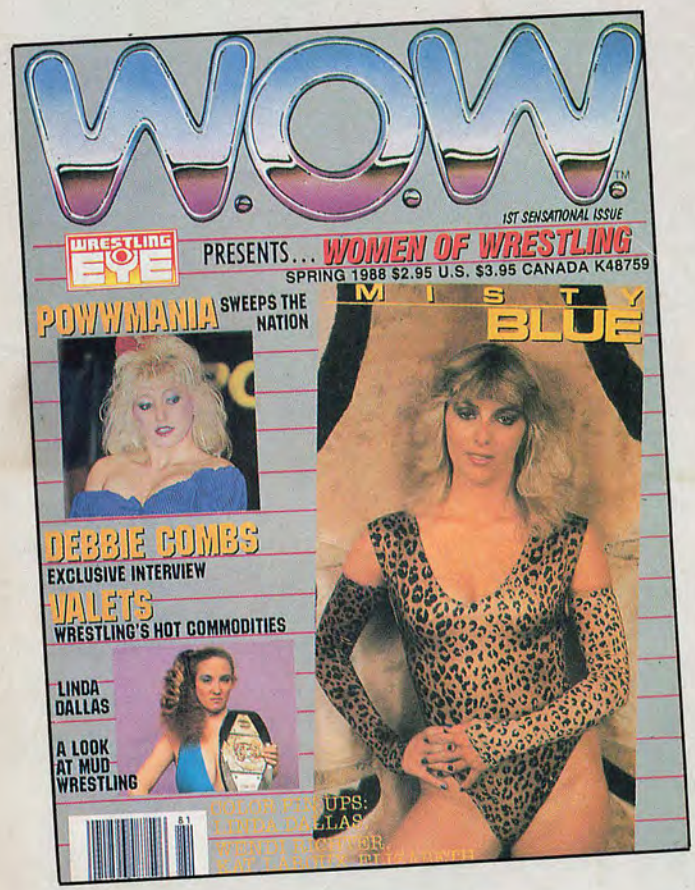

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